CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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PM chairs virtual meet with CMs amid West Asia crisis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urges 'Team India' approach to ensure supply stability during crisis

- **Virtual meet held:** PM with Chief Ministers
- **Focus areas:** Fuel, essential commodities supply
- **Crisis trigger:** West Asia conflict, Hormuz concerns
- **Team India push:** Centre-state coordination stressed
- **COVID model:** Reference for joint response
- **Goal:** Prevent shortages, ensure stability

The Chief Ministers who attended the meeting included N Chandra Babu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh), Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Revanth Reddy (Telangana), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Bhupendra Patel (Gujarat), Omar Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Pema Khandu (Arunachal Pradesh) among others.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday chaired a high-level virtual meeting with Chief Ministers to review preparedness and ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel and essential commodities as tensions escalate in West Asia.

The meeting comes as the ongoing conflict raises concerns over global energy supply disruptions, particularly with fears surrounding the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The Centre is coordinating closely with states, which are expected to play a key role in maintaining ground-level supply chains and preventing shortages.

Recalling the coordinated response during the COVID-19 pandemic, Modi emphasised the importance of a unified "Team India" approach. He urged states to make special arrangements to ensure that essential commodities remain available without disruption, stressing that cooperation between the Centre and states is crucial in times of global uncertainty.

Officials noted that similar virtual interactions during the pandemic helped streamline efforts in healthcare, logistics, and vaccination, setting a precedent for collaborative governance. The Prime Minister highlighted that the same spirit of coordination must guide the nation in addressing current challenges arising from geopolitical tensions.

The Centre has already taken measures to stabilise fuel availability and manage supply chains, while states have been asked to monitor local distribution closely and prevent panic buying. The government aims to cushion citizens from the economic impact of global volatility.

The renewed push for "Team India" underscores India's federal structure, where coordinated action between the Centre and states remains key to navigating crises effectively.

CENTRE CUTS FUEL EXCISE BY ₹10, IMPOSES EXPORT DUTY

NEW DELHI

₹10/litre Excise duty cut on petrol, diesel	**₹21.5/litre** Export duty on diesel
₹29.5/litre Export duty on ATF	**$70 ₹122/barrel** Recent crude oil price surge
₹1.55 lakh crore Estimated annual fiscal impact	**30–40%** OMC losses likely absorbed by duty cut

Move aims to shield consumers as global crude prices surge sharply

The Union government on Friday reduced central excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre, while simultaneously imposing fresh export levies on petroleum products to manage domestic supply amid a sharp rise in global crude oil prices.

Announcing the decision, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the move was aimed at protecting consumers from rising fuel costs triggered by escalating tensions in West Asia. She emphasised that the government, led by Narendra Modi, has prioritised insulating citizens from global price volatility.

Alongside the excise cut, the Centre imposed an export duty of ₹21.5 per litre on diesel and ₹29.5 per litre on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), seeking to ensure adequate domestic availability as international rates climb. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri noted that crude oil prices have surged from around $70 to $122 per barrel in recent weeks, leading to steep increases worldwide.

He pointed out that fuel prices have risen by up to 50% in several regions, forcing the government to choose between passing on the burden to consumers or absorbing it through reduced revenues. Oil marketing companies are currently incurring losses of about ₹24 per litre on petrol and ₹30 on diesel, he added.

Analysts estimate the excise cut could offset 30–40% of these losses, with a fiscal impact of nearly ₹1.55 lakh crore annually. The export duty is expected to discourage excessive overseas sales and stabilise domestic fuel supplies amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

'Will fight if state raises fuel prices'

BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Friday warned that the BJP would strongly oppose any move by the Congress-led state government to increase petrol and diesel prices, despite cuts announced by the Centre.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for reducing fuel prices, stating the decision would benefit the public. However, he alleged that the state government might attempt to offset the reduction by increasing local taxes to generate revenue. "If they try to raise oil prices, we will fight hard," he asserted.

Ashoka also criticised the Congress for linking fuel price cuts to elections, arguing that polls are held throughout the year and positive decisions should not be politicised. He further accused the state government of excessive borrowing, claiming loans worth lakhs of crores have been taken, which could eventually burden citizens through higher taxes.

Raising concerns over governance, he alleged irregularities in welfare schemes and questioned the utilisation of funds in projects such as Grihalakshmi and Annabhagya, claiming the government had failed to provide clear answers. He also criticised urban development plans in Bengaluru, alleging mismanagement and lack of financial discipline.

Centre's excise cut benefits people: Vijayendra

BJP state president B. Y. Vijayendra on Friday welcomed the Centre's decision to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre, calling it a firm step in favour of common people. He congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government for absorbing the burden during a global crisis. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Vijayendra said while fuel prices have surged worldwide, India's decision would ease pressure on citizens. He criticised the Congress for "blaming others" to cover up failures. He also noted that leaders, including H. D. Kumaraswamy, would campaign for upcoming by-elections.

Party alleges massive tax burden, warns of fuel price hikes post-elections

Congress criticises Centre over fuel prices, corporate favouritism

BENGALURU

The Congress on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Centre over fuel prices and taxation policies, accusing the government of burdening citizens while favouring private companies.

Addressing the media, Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged that the government led by Narendra Modi has collected nearly ₹43 lakh crore over the past 11 years through excise and customs duties on petrol and diesel, averaging around ₹1,000 crore per day.

He argued that despite global crude oil prices declining compared to 2014 levels, domestic fuel prices have increased significantly. According to him, petrol prices have risen from about ₹71 per litre to over ₹102, while diesel has gone up from ₹56 to ₹91 per litre. LPG cylinder prices, he added, have more than doubled during the same period.

Surjewala criticised the excise duty cut announced by the Centre, claiming that the relief largely benefits private oil companies such as Nayara Energy and Reliance, with minimal impact on common consumers. He described the taxation system as a "cycle of loot" that places an unfair burden on the public.

He also warned that fuel prices could rise again after the upcoming elections, urging the Centre to ensure stability and transparency in pricing. Congress leaders said the issue directly impacts household budgets and called for immediate measures to reduce the financial strain on citizens.

Centre may raise fuel prices after polls: DyCM D.K. Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday alleged that the Centre may hike petrol and diesel prices after elections, calling it an "election gimmick." He claimed the government collects nearly ₹1,000 crore daily through fuel taxes and questioned its utilisation. Speaking in Bengaluru, he accused the Centre of favouring select corporates and failing to ensure fair fuel pricing and adequate LPG supply to southern states. He also pointed to a sharp rise in fuel prices since 2014 and alleged temporary price cuts are aimed at electoral gains.

MLAs get free IPL tickets after Prasad meets CM

BENGALURU

Karnataka MLAs will receive free tickets for the IPL opener at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after a meeting between Venkatesh Prasad and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday, ending a controversy that had sparked outrage among legislators.

The issue erupted after MLAs expressed anger over not being allotted complimentary tickets for Saturday's opening match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad. Several legislators refused to stand in queues or book tickets online, citing their status and alleging disrespect by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Following Prasad's meeting with the Chief Minister, sources indicated that MLAs would now be given free entry, along with a dedicated stand at the stadium.

QUICK READ

Seven dead in Ladakh avalanche; highway blocked

SRINAGAR: Seven people were killed and five others injured after a massive avalanche struck near Zoji La in Ladakh on Friday, blocking the crucial Srinagar-Leh highway and leaving several vehicles buried under snow. Union Minister Jitendra Singh confirmed the casualties, expressing condolences to the victims' families. Officials said the death toll could rise as multiple vehicles remain trapped beneath the snow. Rescue operations are underway from both Sonamarg and Drass sides, involving over 100 personnel, including the Army, Border Roads Organisation, SDRF and police teams.

Balen Shah sworn in as Nepal's youngest PM at 35

KATHMANDU: Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, was on Friday sworn in as Nepal's youngest Prime Minister at the age of 35, following a sweeping electoral victory that marked a dramatic shift in the country's political landscape. The rapper-turned-politician, representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party, secured a landslide mandate in the recent parliamentary elections, winning 182 seats in the 275-member House. His rise comes after mass anti-corruption protests last year that led to the collapse of the previous government and triggered demands for generational change.

IRAN ON STRIKE TARGETS

Iran flags Gulf hotels sheltering US troops as strike targets

NEW DELHI

Tensions in West Asia escalated further after Iran warned that hotels in Gulf countries housing American troops could become military targets amid the ongoing conflict.

According to reports, several US military bases across the region have been severely damaged in recent strikes, forcing American soldiers to take shelter in civilian facilities, including hotels in countries like Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Iranian military spokesperson Abolfazl Shekarchi said any location sheltering US forces would be considered a legitimate target. He stated that once American troops occupy civilian infrastructure, those sites effectively become extensions of US military presence.

The warning follows earlier remarks by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who urged Gulf hotels not to accommodate US personnel, accusing them of using civilians as "human shields."

- **13+ bases hit:** US military sites damaged
- **$800 million losses:** Estimated damage in early weeks
- **Gulf hotels:** New shelter points for troops
- **Bahrain & UAE:** Key locations under warning
- **Rising risk:** Civilian areas exposed to conflict

Reports indicate that at least 13 US bases across the Gulf have been rendered largely unusable, with significant damage inflicted on key facilities. The escalating conflict has already caused heavy financial losses and forced troop relocations, exposing vulnerabilities in US operations.

The situation has raised concerns over civilian safety, as hotels and urban areas risk being drawn into direct conflict. Iran has also reportedly called on civilians to share intelligence on US troop locations, further intensifying fears of a broader regional escalation.

No lockdown in India, rumours 'completely false', says Centre

NEW DELHI

Amid rising speculation over a possible lockdown due to the ongoing West Asia crisis, Union Ministers on Friday firmly dismissed the claims, calling them baseless and misleading.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said there is "no proposal under consideration" for any lockdown in India, urging citizens not to fall for rumours. He described attempts to spread panic as "irresponsible and harmful," especially at a time when the global situation remains uncertain. Puri assured that the government is closely monitoring developments related to energy supplies, global markets, and essential commodities in real time. He emphasised that India remains well-prepared to handle emerging challenges and has taken all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel and critical resources.

Echoing similar views, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman categorically ruled out any lockdown-like measures, stating that such claims were completely false.

The Centre also highlighted that India currently has sufficient reserves, including around 60 days of crude oil and nearly a month's supply of LPG, to meet domestic demand.

Miyawaki mini forest to come up at Salumarada Thimmakka park

MYSURU

A program to develop a Miyawaki mini forest under CSR was organized by the Mysuru City Corporation at Salumarada Thimmakka Park in Dattagalli, in collaboration with Toyota Accessories Development ME India Pvt. Ltd. (TADME) in Mysuru on Friday.

The event was attended by the Corporation Commissioner, Sheikh Tanveer Asif; Executive Engineer (Electrical), Deepak A. E.; Zonal Commissioners, Sandeep and Mohan Kumar P. K.; Assistant Executive Engineer (Horticulture), Madhukar M.; Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment), Meenakshi; along with Environmental Engineers, Health Inspectors, and Horticulture Inspectors.

At the park, more than 15,000 saplings of various species have been planted, and the responsibility for their maintenance for a period of three years will be undertaken by Toyota Accessories Development ME India Pvt. Ltd. (TADME).

ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

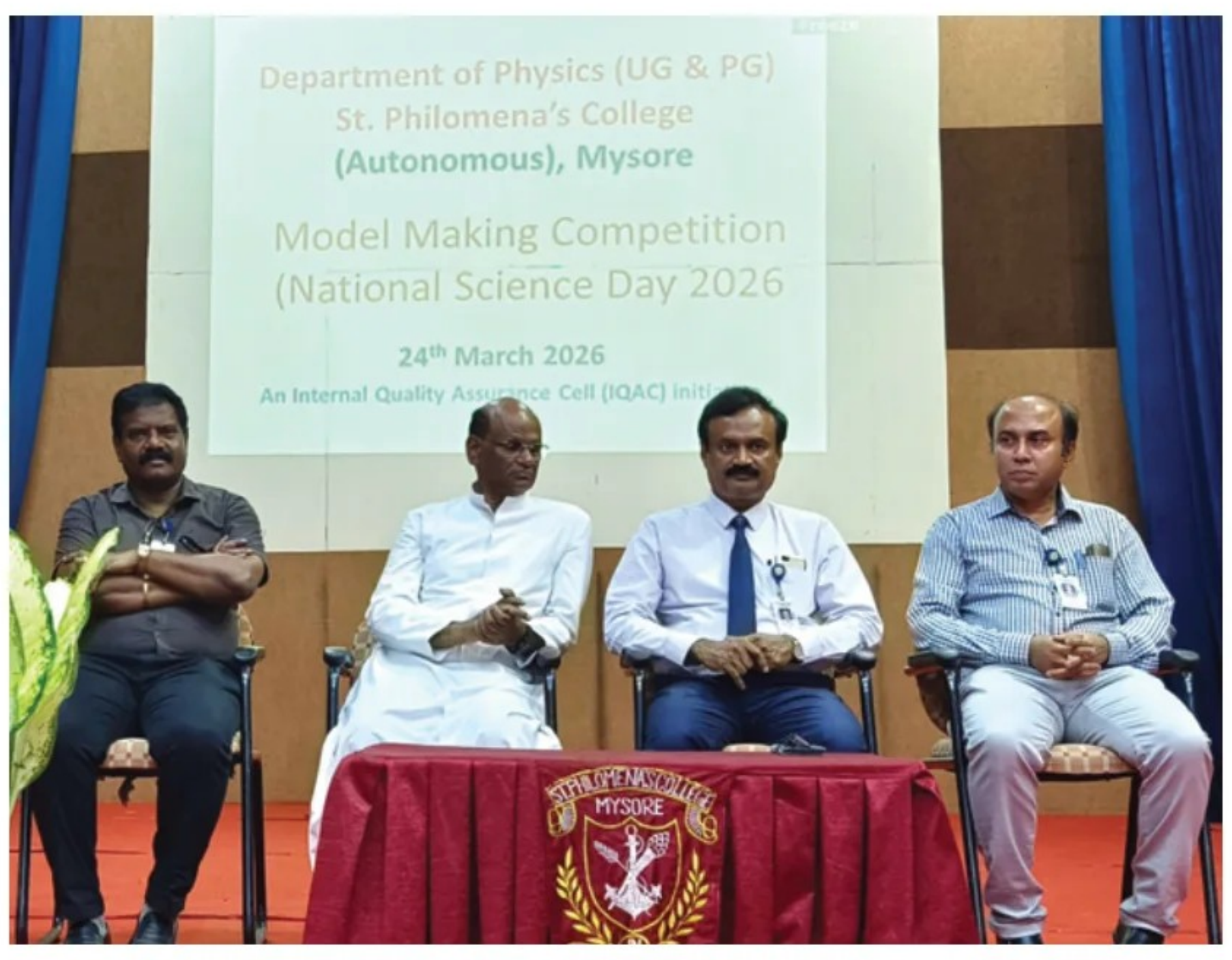
MYSURU

In a vibrant display of scientific temper and creativity, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the Department of Physics (UG & PG) at St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore, jointly organized the Oak Jubilee National Science Day 2026 (Phase II) Model Making Competition in the city.

The event was held in the college auditorium in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

The competition featuring nearly 40 working models displayed by students from various city colleges was formally inaugurated and presided over by Rector Rev. Dr. Lourdu Prasad Joseph. The occasion was also graced by the presence of Principal Dr. Ravi J.D. Saldanha, Vice Principal (Administration) Mr. Ronald Prakash Cutinha, IQAC Coordinator and Head of the department of Physics Mr. A. Thomas Gunaseelan, PG Physics Head Dr. Sachin and IQAC Co-Coordinator, Dr. Deepa V.

Cash prizes were awarded to the best three models presented during the competition. The diverse array of physics models was judged by a panel consisting of Mr. Prakash Cutinha, Ms. Uzma Bathool, and Ms. Lydia Vandana. The initiative was spearheaded by Mr. A. Thomas Gunaseelan, HoD of Physics and IQAC Coordinator, highlighting the institution's commitment to academic quality and innovation. The event was supported by Physics faculty members Sub Lt. Eliezer Vishwas, Ms. Chandana S (UG), Ms. Impana, Ms Chandana S (PG) and Ms. R Manimozhi.



Grand Inauguration of 136th Sri Rama Festival Music Series in Mysuru

MYSURU

The music festival orgaised as part of the 136th Sri Rama Utsava by Sri Ramabhyudaya Sabha Charitable Trust at Alammana Chatra in Shrirampet, Mysuru, was inaugurated on Friday.

Senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar inaugurated the program and released a commemorative souvenir. The event was presided over by the Trust President Dr. N. Sriram, with Vice President Jagadish also present. Nirāmaya and Subbulakshmi rendered the invocation. Secretary Phanindra delivered the welcome address, Gurupasad proposed the vote of thanks, and Janardhan compered the event. Treasurer Padma Ananth and other trustees of the Sabha were present.

Following the inaugural session, Surya Gayathri presented a classical music concert. She was accompanied by P.V. Sanil Kumar on violin, P.V. Anil Kumar on mridangam, Jagadish Kurtukoti on tabla, and Pranav Dutt on rhythm pad.

Among the attendees were former Legislative Council Member G. Madhusudhan and C.R. Himanshu of Ontikoppal Sri Prasanna Vidya Ganapati Committee, along with several other dignitaries.

The music festival will continue for ten days, featuring many renowned artists from across the state and outside. On the very first day, the venue witnessed a packed audience, including a few foreign visitors, who thoroughly enjoyed the musical performances.

Special children celebrate Sri Rama Navami

MYSURU

Sree Ramanavami was celebrated in Institute of mother and Deaf Child run by Parents Association of Deaf children in Mysuru on Friday. On this occasion, Ramayana was explained in brief to the children.

Aarushi as Dasharatha, Anshik as Rama, Ibbani as Lakshmana, Dhruvin as Bharatha and Yashas as Satrugna stole show. They are seen with E C Member Jalaja Govindappa, Vijaya Shivanna, Kavitha, Ashwini Patil, Neelu Singh, Reeta Shetty, Ashwini, Parimala Murthy and Raghuveer.

Dr Raj Kumar is an inspiration for all: Music director Kandegala

MYSURU

Veteran actor Dr. Rajkumar continues to be an inspiration to the entire artistic community even today, and he evolved as a multifaceted personality with diverse talents, said music director Nagesh Kandegala.

Speaking after inaugurating the inter-collegiate film song singing competition organized by the Co-curricular Activities Committee in memory of Padma Bhushan Dr. Rajkumar, he said Rajkumar, who had studied only up to the fourth standard and came from a village, rose to national fame through art. His films served as a guiding light to society. Not just his acting, but his simplicity in behavior and speech continues to inspire society and show the path of good conduct. Such cultural programs should be organized in his memory.

Sharing his own experience, Nagesh Kandegala said that he too came from a village and pursued his studies at Maharaja's College. For someone who was initially confined only to academics, the college provided the foundation and inspiration to engage in co-curricular activities and build a career. Life was quite challenging for people like them who came from rural backgrounds. There was a lot of fear and inferiority complex. While struggling to adjust to city life, Maharaja's College taught them how to shape their lives.

Addressing the students, he said that winning and losing in competitions are natural, and many who have faced more failures have gone on to achieve success. Lessons from failure lead to success. To bring out one's talent, hard work and dedication are more important than luck.

Women deserve positions in society according to their capabilities and potential

MYSURU

Dr. Shwetha Madappadi, Founder of Dhwani Foundation and industrialist, Mysuru, said that women deserve positions in society according to their capabilities and potential, and with quality education and self-confidence, women can reach greater heights in life.

Speaking after inaugurating the International Women's Day programme organised by the Youth Red Cross and Women Empowerment Cell at JSS College for Women, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru here on Friday, she described every woman as an achiever and added that the foundation for success should be laid during one's college days. Her wish was that women should actively contribute to the upliftment of society.

The chief guest, Dr. Hema Patil, Programme Coordinator, Department of Management Studies, Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Mysuru, urged everyone to walk on the right path and achieve their goals. In a family, there is no distinction between superior and inferior; all members must live together with mutual harmony and goodwill. The girls to move forward with independent thinking and to break free from the chains and restrictions surrounding them.

Akshari, Chartered Accountant and alumna of the college, stated that the college had taught her discipline and responsibility in life, and advised that challenges in life should be faced with courage and encouraged women not to stop dreaming.

Presiding over the programme, Prof. Morabada Mallikarjuna, Director, College Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, recalled that the revered founder had established the college with a motherly heart and highlighted that women possess the power to create new beginnings and foster healthy energy and vitality. He opined that men should adopt a gentle nature and support the progress and empowerment of women.

Dr. Rechanna, Principal, Smt. Vasumathi P, Convener of the Women Empowerment Cell and Smt. Nagalambike N, Convener of the Youth Red Cross, were present on the occasion. Faculty members and students participated in the programme.

The guests distributed prizes to the winners of the sports competitions organised for the women faculty members of the college to mark International Women's Day.

Kum. Dhathri and group rendered the invocation. Kum. Sushmitha. III BCom welcomed the gathering. Kum. Sangeetha M. III BA, proposed a vote of thanks. Kum. Sahana, III BA, compered the programme.

Use of banned plastic: MCC nets Rs 2.15 lakh fine amount

MYSURU

As per the directions of the Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner, strict action is being taken against those violating the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, including the use of banned plastic within the city limits.

Today, special zone-wise inspections were carried out across various parts of the city. During the drive, commercial establishments were checked for the use of banned plastic and compliance with waste management practices. Banned plastic items were seized, penalties were imposed on violators, and awareness was created among them.

The details of fines imposed zone-wise are as follows:

Zone 1 (Z1) – ₹4,000, Zone 2 (Z2) – ₹45,000, Zone 3 (Z3) – ₹12,000, Zone 4 (Z4) – ₹45,000, Zone 6 (Z6) – ₹60,000, Zone 7 (Z7) – ₹15,300, Zone 8 (Z8) – ₹9,800 and

Zone 9 (Z9) – ₹14,600. Total fine amount: ₹2,15,200.

The drive was carried out with the participation of Health Inspectors Shashi, Praveen, Ashwath, Sheela, Manju Kumar, Krishna, Ashok, Namrata, Shrinidhi, Rajeshwari, Prakash, Harish, Somashekar, Manjunath, and Ravishankar.

Environmental Engineers Jyothi, Mahadevi, Sridevi, and Maitri were also present.

The Mysuru City Corporation appeals to all commercial establishments to immediately stop the use of banned plastic and strictly follow solid waste management rules. Such inspections and strict actions will continue against those who violate the regulations.

Nandini Milk Booth Inaugurated

MYSURU

A Nandini milk booth was inaugurated near the Tulasi Das Mohan Das Mother and Child Hospital on JLB Road by MYMUL President K. Eregowda in Mysuru on Friday.

On the occasion, former MYMUL President and current directors A.T. Somashekar, K.G. Mahesh, K. Umashankar, C. Om Prakash, R. Cheluvaraju, along with directors Leela, B.K. Nagaraju, Neelambike, Mahesh Kurahatti, Shivagami Shanmugam, B.N. Sadananda, B. Guruswamy, and Marketing Manager H.K. Jayashankar, marketing staff, and others were present.

FIRST BATCH OF NPM TRAINING COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY

MYSURU

The first batch of the Nurse Practitioner in Midwifery (NPM) training program, which commenced in December 2023 at the State Midwifery Training Institute, Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysuru, has been successfully completed.

All candidates who underwent this 18-month training program have passed the final examination conducted by the Karnataka State Nursing Examination Board. They are currently serving at various Midwifery Led Care Unit (MLCU) centers. Certificates were recently distributed during a formal ceremony.

The program was held at the Kaveri Auditorium on the second floor of the Department of Pediatrics at Cheluvamba Hospital.

The chief guests at the event included: Dr. Sudha R (Medical Superintendent, Cheluvamba Hospital), Dr. M.D. Shivarama Krishna (Resident Medical Officer, Cheluvamba Hospital), Dr. Lakshmikanth G (Professor & Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology), Dr. Pradeep (Professor & Head, Department of Pediatrics),

Dr. Ravi Lakshman (Principal, District Training Center),

Dr. Nandaprakash (Principal, Government Nursing College), Mrs. Leelavathi (Nursing Superintendent), Sara Coxen (Director – Midwifery Initiatives, Aastrika Foundation, Bengaluru), Bhimaraya (Program Manager, Midwifery Initiative, Aastrika Foundation, Bengaluru) Midwifery educators and program coordinators

Objectives of program

The Government of India introduced the Nurse Practitioner in Midwifery (NPM) program in 2019 with the objective of providing quality, respectful, and women-centered care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.

The key objectives of this training include: Providing a positive childbirth experience for women, Offering continuous support and guidance during pregnancy, delivery, and the postnatal period, Reducing unnecessary medical interventions, Creating awareness about maternal and newborn care, nutrition, and breastfeeding, Ensuring coordination with doctors and nursing staff, Promoting different birthing positions and practices

Structure and Implementation of the Training.

A total of 21 candidates were selected for this program and trained under the guidance of 5 midwifery educators and international trainers. First 12 months: Theoretical and practical training at Cheluvamba Hospital. Next 6 months: Hands-on experience at Midwifery Led Care Unit (MLCU) centers.

All candidates successfully passed the 18-month final examination

Currently, these candidates are serving at various MLCU centers.

This program was successfully implemented in collaboration with the Karnataka Department of Health and Family Welfare, Aastrika Foundation, Bengaluru, and UNICEF. Aastrika Foundation played a key role in providing technical and practical training support.

This training program marks a significant step toward improving the quality of maternal healthcare services. The trained NPM candidates are expected to contribute meaningfully to society through their skills and dedicated service.

Devotion, Dharma & Festive Spirit Mark Sri Rama Navami in Mysuru

MYSURU

The sacred festival of Sri Rama Navami, celebrating the birth of Lord Sri Rama—the embodiment of righteousness and virtue (Maryada Purushottama)—was observed with deep devotion, religious fervor, and community participation across the city.

At Chamundipuram Circle, members of Sri Rama Geleyara Balaga organized a vibrant celebration marked by spiritual rituals and public service. The event began with special pooja and floral tributes offered to the portrait of Lord Sri Rama. Devotees gathered in large numbers, reflecting the enduring cultural and spiritual significance of the occasion.

Adding to the festive spirit, volunteers distributed panaka (a refreshing jaggery-based drink) and majjige (buttermilk) to the public, offering relief from the summer heat while symbolizing the spirit of service.

Addressing the gathering, Balaga President C. Sandeep highlighted the significance of the day, noting that the Navami of the Shukla Paksha in the Chaitra month marks the divine birth of Lord Rama. He urged people to imbibe the noble ideals of truth, duty, and compassion exemplified by Lord Rama. He also expressed hope for societal harmony, good rainfall, and agricultural prosperity, wishing for relief from the scorching summer and greener days ahead.

Meanwhile, at the revered Sri Panchamukhi Anjaneya Swamy Temple on Irwin Road, a grand Sri Rama Taraka Homa was performed for the welfare of humanity. Under the guidance of chief priest Vidwan S. Krishnamurthy, special abhisheka rituals were offered to both Panchamukhi Anjaneya Swamy and Lord Rama. The temple surroundings echoed with Vedic chants, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Following the rituals, devotees were served traditional prasada including panaka, kosambari (lentil salad), and buttermilk, reinforcing the festival's emphasis on sharing and community bonding.

In another part of the city, celebrations were held at the Sri Rama Temple, where special Pooja and abhisheka were performed with devotion. The event was graced by Ilai Alwar Swamiji of Vengipura Mutt along with several prominent community members and devotees, adding spiritual significance to the gathering.

Across Mysuru, Sri Rama Navami was not merely a religious observance but a collective expression of faith, culture, and unity. From sacred rituals and homas to charitable acts and community gatherings, the celebrations beautifully reflected the timeless ideals of Lord Rama—dharma, compassion, and service—continuing to inspire generations.

'Srishti Celestia 2026-eternal starlight' begins at Teresian College

MYSURU

Teresian College, Mysuru, successfully commenced its grand intercollegiate fest titled "Srishti Celestia 2026 - Eternal Starlight" on Friday at the college campus in Siddarthanagara in Mysuru.

Organised by the Student Council, the two-day fest brings together students from various institutions to celebrate culture, creativity, intellect and innovation.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Gaurav Shetty, Kannada Film Actor and YouTuber, marking the beginning of the grand celebration. The ceremony was further graced by eminent dignitaries including Dr. Sr. Rohini, Principal, Teresian College; Sr. Anjali, Manager, Teresian Institutions; Dr. Sr. Juanita, Principal, Teresian PU College; Dr. Jayanthi C, Associate Professor and Dean of Science; Dr. Veena M. D'Almeida, Associate Professor and Dean of Commerce; Vivek Charles, IQAC Coordinator, Teresian College; and Chethan M, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Speaking on the occasion, Shetty shared insights into his inspiring journey in the film industry and about his humble beginnings, his first film experience, and emphasized the importance of patience, perseverance, and self-belief.

He encouraged students to actively participate in cultural activities and make the most of such platforms to showcase their talents.

Dr. Sr. Rohini, who presided, beautifully conveyed her message through a poem dedicated to the students, the institution, and the spirit of the fest. She extended her heartfelt blessings for the grand success of the event and motivated students to participate with enthusiasm and confidence.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a vibrant series of cultural competitions commenced, filling the campus with energy and excitement. Students actively participated in various events, displaying their talents and creativity across multiple domains.

NO FUEL SHORTAGE IN MYSURU

Federation appeals people to stay calm and avoid panic buying

MYSURU

Amid concerns circulating among the public, the Federation of Mysore Petroleum Traders has confirmed that petrol and diesel are abundantly available across the region. The Federation emphasized that there is no shortage of fuel supply, and the situation remains stable, normal, and well-managed.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರ ಸಂಘ (ರಿ)
ಮೈಸೂರು

Addressing the media here on Friday, Federation President Shashikala Nagaraj stated that uninterrupted supply of petroleum products is being ensured through continuous support from the Government of India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and various Oil Marketing Companies. This coordinated effort has enabled all retail fuel outlets in Mysuru and surrounding areas to function smoothly without any disruption.

Highlighting the dedication of fuel dealers, she said the entire dealer fraternity is working tirelessly to ensure that citizens face no inconvenience. Every possible step is being taken to maintain consistent and adequate supply. Our priority is to serve the public responsibly and efficiently. However, the citizens must act responsibly during this time and not to give in to rumors or misinformation.

Important advisory

To maintain order and safety, the Federation has issued the following key guidelines:

Avoid panic buying or unnecessary stocking of petrol and diesel ; Do not hoard fuel, as it is illegal and punishable under law ; Refrain from storing fuel in unsafe containers, which can lead to serious fire hazards and endanger lives.

The Federation warned that improper handling and storage of petroleum products can pose significant risks not only to individuals but also to families and the larger community. Citizens are urged to prioritize safety and follow standard guidelines while handling fuel.

Reiterating its commitment, the Federation assured that there is no cause for concern and that fuel supplies are continuous and sufficient. The public must remain calm, cooperate with authorities, and avoid spreading or believing unverified information.

With collective responsibility and cooperation, Mysuru continues to enjoy a stable fuel supply system, ensuring the safety and convenience of all its residents.

UoM student shines at South Asian Championship 2026

MYSURU

In a moment of immense pride and history for University of Mysore, Moulik Maharjan, a student of MCA 4th Semester from the Department of Studies in Computer Science has secured 3rd place at the South Asian Championship 2026, held on 21st March 2026 in Pokhara.

The championship witnessed participation from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, with a competitive field of 17 participants, making this achievement highly commendable on an international stage. This remarkable accomplishment marks a historic milestone in the 100-year legacy of the University of Mysore, as no student in its history has ever secured a medal at the South Asian Championship. Moulik has etched his name into the university's legacy by becoming the first-ever medalist at this prestigious event, setting a new benchmark for excellence.

He has been rigorously training at the Mysore University Swimming Pool under the expert guidance of Coach Skanda Aswath, who is a national record holder in triathlon and the first Mysurean to achieve this feat. His mentorship, combined with Moulik's dedication and discipline, has culminated in this outstanding success.

This achievement not only brings laurels to the university but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across the region. It stands as a testament to the growing sporting excellence at the University of Mysore and reinforces its commitment to nurturing world-class talent.

Intll Women's Day celebrated at JSS Science and Technology University

MYSURU

An International Women's Day program was successfully conducted at JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru, celebrating the spirit of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality.

The event was graced by Dr. Mahadevi Bai, Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Mysuru Rural, as the Chief Guest. She highlighted the evolving status of women in rural communities and emphasized the need for sustained efforts to ensure their social, educational, and economic development.

The program focused on key issues concerning the status of women in rural areas, shedding light on challenges such as limited access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The importance of community support and effective policy implementation was strongly emphasized.

The event underscored that education plays a pivotal role in empowering women, leading to healthier families, improved livelihoods, and stronger communities. It also highlighted the need to create equal opportunities for women across all spheres by breaking societal barriers and encouraging their active participation in decision-making processes.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, staff, and students. It served as a meaningful platform to raise awareness, inspire change, and reaffirm the commitment to building an inclusive and equitable society.

The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. A. N. Santosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, JSS STU, Mysuru, in the presence of Dr. S. A. Dhanaraj, Registrar, JSS STU, Mysuru; Dr. Nataraju C, Principal (i/c) and Dean (Engineering & Technology); and Dr. Savitha M, Professor and Head, Department of I&PE.

The event concluded with a strong message to support women's empowerment and to work collectively towards achieving gender equality in all aspects of life.

Maharani Women's Arts Fest (Kala Kalarava) begins on a colourful note

MYSURU

A week-long cultural festival "Kala Kalarava" for the academic year 2025–26 was inaugurated at Maharani's Women's Arts College in the city by Principal Prof. M.S. Anita. Speaking on the occasion, she said that the Kala Kalarava cultural program provides an excellent platform to bring out the multifaceted talents of students. It offers students an opportunity to showcase their hidden abilities through creative and active participation. Such platforms are essential for students to express their talents beyond academics. It is also their responsibility to preserve our culture, heritage, and history.

On this occasion, traditional rural items such as the grinding stone, mortar and pestle, plough used for farming, paddy, and ragi heaps were displayed in the college.

Students dressed in traditional rural attire and presented various cultural dance performances reflecting village life.

They also organized and managed more than 25 stalls, selling a variety of items they had prepared themselves or brought from their homes and villages. These included buttermilk, tender coconut water, churmuri, pani puri, cucumber, panaka, jackfruit, rava unde, country chicken eggs, sweets, chapati, roti, chicken dishes, and more.

Through their communication and business skills, the students conducted sales successfully, celebrated the event, earned profits, and gained practical knowledge about modern-day lifestyle and entrepreneurship.

The program was organized by Cultural Forum Coordinator Dr. Bhaskar K.S., Treasurer Dr. Nagaveni T., Office Superintendent Venkatesh K., Student Union President Harshitha, Secretary Vaishnavi, along with faculty members, staff, and students, all of whom actively participated and contributed to the success and vibrancy of the event.

QUICK READ

IMD Predicts Rain Relief Amid Rising Heat in Karnataka

Bengaluru

Amid rising temperatures and increasing discomfort due to heat, the India Meteorological Department has forecasted rain in several parts of the state over the coming days. According to the latest weather report, several districts in Karnataka are likely to experience rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and even hail in isolated areas. This forecast comes as a welcome development for people who have been struggling with intense heat conditions in recent days. The IMD has indicated that the changing weather pattern will bring a mix of conditions across the state. While southern and central regions are expected to receive rainfall and relatively cooler temperatures, parts of North Karnataka will continue to experience high temperatures and dry conditions.

Transport Dept Sets March 31 Deadline for Fire Safety Compliance

Bengaluru

Despite repeated advisories and enforcement efforts, officials estimate that nearly 90 percent of private sleeper coaches and air-conditioned buses in the state are still operating without adequate fire safety systems. This alarming figure has raised serious concerns within the department, particularly in light of past fire accidents that have led to fatalities and severe injuries. Transport officials have emphasized that basic safety requirements such as fire extinguishers, emergency exits, fire detection systems, and proper wiring must be installed and maintained in all passenger buses. However, many operators have reportedly ignored these norms, prioritizing cost savings over passenger safety.

Ashoka Raises Concerns Over IPL Safety and Ticket Distribution

Bengaluru

Speaking at the Vidhana Soudha, Ashoka expressed serious concerns about crowd management and safety measures during IPL matches in the state. He referred to a previous incident in which a stampede during an IPL-related event resulted in the deaths of 11 people, describing it as a tragic consequence of administrative negligence and lack of proper planning. Ashoka alleged that the state government and concerned officials failed to ensure adequate safety protocols during the earlier incident. He stressed that such lapses must not be repeated and called for comprehensive arrangements to manage large crowds expected at upcoming matches.

Govt Announces Key Reforms to Reduce SSLC Exam Pressure

Karnataka's School Education and Literacy Minister S. Madhu Bangarappa has announced a series of reforms in the SSLC examination system

BENGALURU

Addressing the media, the minister stated that the third language component in SSLC examinations will now be shifted to a grading system instead of the existing marks-based evaluation. Until now, students were assessed out of 625 marks, with 100 marks allocated to the third language. Under the new system, students will no longer be categorized as pass or fail in the third language. Instead, grades such as A, B, C, or D will be awarded, and these scores will not be included in the final aggregate marks.

The minister clarified that this rule will apply uniformly to all third languages offered in the curriculum, including Hindi, Sanskrit, Tulu, Marathi, and Arabic. An official government order detailing these changes is expected to be issued shortly.

In another important initiative, the government has introduced Moral Science education for students starting from the current academic year. Free textbooks will be provided to students, reflecting the government's commitment to nurturing responsible and ethical citizens.

The minister also highlighted a proposal to restrict social media usage for children below the age of 16, citing concerns over mental health and the long-term impact on students' futures. The proposal has received strong support during discussions in the Assembly. However, he emphasized that the issue cannot be addressed by the government alone and urged parents to take greater responsibility in monitoring their children's mobile phone usage.

Reiterating the government's broader vision, the minister stated that strengthening public schools, ensuring transparency, and reducing exam-related stress remain key priorities. As part of these efforts, the system of conducting three annual examinations has been implemented, allowing students multiple opportunities to improve their performance and secure better scores.

KEA Reschedules NWKRTC Recruitment Exam to April 10

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced the rescheduling of the recruitment examination for various vacant posts in the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC).

According to officials, the examination, which was initially planned for April 9, will now be conducted on April 10 to avoid any clash with the polling process. The KEA stated that this move is aimed at ensuring smooth conduct of both the elections and the recruitment examination, without causing inconvenience to candidates or administrative authorities. The decision comes in light of the by-elections scheduled for two Assembly constituencies on April 9.

The recruitment drive is being held to fill a total of 33 vacant posts within the NWKRTC. The written examination will take place at designated centers in Bengaluru and Dharwad. Authorities have confirmed that necessary arrangements are being made at both locations to facilitate candidates appearing for the test.

KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna informed that admit cards for the examination will be released shortly. Candidates are advised to download their hall tickets once available and strictly follow the revised schedule while appearing for the examination.

He further revealed that approximately 2,500 candidates have applied for these posts, reflecting significant interest in the recruitment process. With a large number of applicants expected to appear, the authority has emphasized adherence to guidelines and timely reporting at examination centers.

The rescheduling ensures that candidates are not forced to choose between participating in the democratic process and attending the examination. Officials have urged applicants to stay updated through official notifications and prepare accordingly for the revised exam date.

The govt has introduced a series of major initiatives under its Industrial Policy 2025–30 to accelerate industrial growth and bring entrepreneurs from marginalized communities into the mainstream

State Unveils Industrial Policy with Boost for SC/ST Entrepreneurs

BENGALURU

According to the government, the new Industrial Policy 2025–30 focuses on attracting investments through a range of incentives and subsidies. Key highlights of the policy include capital investment subsidies and turnover-based incentives designed to encourage businesses to expand operations in the state. Investors will also benefit from exemptions on stamp duty and concessions in registration charges, making it easier to establish new industrial units.

Additionally, the policy offers relief in electricity-related costs, including exemptions on electricity duty and financial assistance for power consumption. Special incentives have also been announced for industries adopting advanced technologies, export-oriented units, and sustainable industrial practices, reflecting the government's emphasis on modernization and environmentally responsible growth.

A major component of the policy is a dedicated support package for entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Under the Special Component Plan, eligible industrial units with investments up to ₹10 crore can avail soft seed capital assistance of up to ₹75 lakh. This assistance comes with a four-year moratorium period, followed by a flexible repayment schedule of five years.

Further, substantial subsidies are being offered on land allocation. Industrial plots of up to two acres allotted through state agencies will receive up to 75 percent subsidy, significantly reducing the cost burden on new entrepreneurs.

The government has also announced a 60 percent subsidy on loans taken from banks for setting up micro and small enterprises, with a maximum benefit of ₹5 lakh. This measure is expected to encourage grassroots entrepreneurship and enable individuals from disadvantaged communities to establish sustainable businesses.

Overall, the policy aims to create a more inclusive industrial ecosystem, strengthen economic growth, and ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society in Karnataka's development journey.

Karnataka Yet to Decide on Fuel Tax Cut

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara has stated that the state government will take a decision on reducing fuel taxes only after discussions in the cabinet, following the Centre's recent move to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel. Responding to questions from the media in Bengaluru, the minister clarified that any decision regarding a reduction in state-level excise duty will be taken by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He added that the matter would be discussed in the cabinet if it is formally brought up for consideration.

The statement comes in the wake of a major announcement by the central government, which has reduced excise duty on fuel, offering relief to consumers.

As per the announcement, the excise duty on petrol has been significantly reduced, bringing it down from ₹13 per litre to ₹3 per litre. Similarly, the excise duty on diesel, which earlier stood at ₹10 per litre, has now been reduced to zero.

Snakebite Cases Rise in Karnataka, 273 Deaths Reported in Three Years

BENGALURU

Karnataka has witnessed a sharp rise in snakebite cases over the past three years, with 36,636 incidents reported and 273 deaths recorded. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao shared these figures in the Legislative Council while outlining the government's measures to tackle the growing public health concern.

Responding to a question raised by Council member K. Govindaraj during the session, the minister presented detailed data indicating a year-on-year increase in both snakebite cases and fatalities. The trend has raised concerns among health authorities, prompting the government to strengthen monitoring and response mechanisms.

The state government has classified snakebite as a notifiable disease in 2024. This means that all government and private hospitals are now required to mandatorily report snakebite cases to the authorities. The move is expected to ensure accurate tracking and timely intervention in such cases. The minister emphasized that free treatment is being provided across all primary health centers, community health centers, and district hospitals. Anti-snake venom (ASV), the primary life-saving treatment for snakebite, is being made available at no cost to patients across the state.

Karnataka Orders Action to Reclaim 444 Acres of Forest Land from Air Force

BENGALURU

In a significant move to protect forest land, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has issued written instructions to initiate action for reclaiming 444 acres of forest land in Bengaluru North taluk. The land, located in Jarakabande Kaval, is currently under the possession of the Indian Air Force. According to official directives, the minister has instructed the department to begin proceedings under Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, to take back the land. He has communicated separate instructions to the Additional Chief Secretary of the concerned department, emphasizing the urgency of the matter.

The land in question, measuring over 444 acres, was originally part of a larger allocation of approximately 452 acres granted to the Indian Air Force. However, the state government had cancelled this allotment on October 9, 2017, with the intention of preserving the area as a vital ecological zone and green lung for the city.

Despite the cancellation, it has been alleged that the Indian Air Force continued to use the land without complying with legal requirements. The minister pointed out that after the cancellation, the Air Force was required to apply under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and seek alternative land through due process. However, this procedure was reportedly not followed, leading to violations of forest regulations.

As part of the enforcement process, officials have been directed to issue notices under Section 64A and proceed with eviction of the encroachment. The minister also clarified that the Air Force has no legal claim over the land following the cancellation of the allotment.

Furthermore, strict instructions have been issued that any future infrastructure development in the area must receive prior approval from the forest department through the Parivesh portal, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. Departments across the state will also be notified to prevent unauthorized use of forest land.

Two Arrested for Cheating Youth with Fake Forest Department Posts

TUMAKURU

A major job fraud has come to light in Tumakuru district, where several young job seekers were allegedly cheated of lakhs of rupees with false promises of employment in the forest department. The Tumakuru Rural Police Station has registered a case and arrested two accused in connection with the scam. According to police reports, the accused identified as Pavan and Kiran lured nearly 15 unemployed youths by promising them government jobs in forest areas near Mysuru. The victims were each asked to pay amounts ranging from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, under the pretext of securing official postings in the forest department.

The accused allegedly created an elaborate scheme to convince the victims of the authenticity of their claims. They issued fake appointment letters using forged letterheads resembling those of senior forest department officials. To further strengthen their deception, the accused even arranged for a so-called training program for the candidates.

This training was conducted at a farmhouse in Vaddarahalli village in Tumakuru taluk, where the victims were made to believe they were undergoing official preparation before joining duty. The use of a physical training setup added credibility to the fraud, making it difficult for the victims to suspect foul play initially.

However, doubts arose when the promised job postings failed to materialize even after the completion of the training. Realizing they had been deceived, the victims approached the Tumakuru Rural Police and lodged a formal complaint. Acting swiftly, the police launched an investigation and managed to trace and arrest the two main accused.

Rider's Alert Saves 21 as KSRTC Bus Catches Fire

BENGALURU

A two-wheeler rider's timely alert helped avert a major tragedy after a KSRTC bus caught fire near Lulu Mall on Magadi Road. The bus, travelling from Bengaluru to Shivamogga, had 21 passengers on board.

According to officials, the rider noticed flames emerging from the bus and immediately alerted the driver. Acting swiftly, the driver stopped the vehicle by the roadside, while the conductor and crew evacuated all passengers to safety.

The fire is suspected to have originated from a spark in the starter. Despite attempts by the crew to douse the flames using a fire extinguisher, the blaze spread rapidly. Fire brigade personnel reached the spot promptly and brought the fire under control.

All passengers were later shifted to another bus, and no injuries were reported. Authorities have launched an investigation into the exact cause of the incident. The alertness of the rider and the quick response of the bus staff have been widely praised for preventing a potential disaster.

BIRTHDAY ROBBERY ARRESTS

Five Arrested for Robbery to Fund Birthday Party

BENGALURU

In a disturbing incident near Bengaluru, five young men have been arrested for allegedly robbing engineering students to finance a birthday celebration. The arrests were carried out by the Doddaballapur Rural Police Station after a complaint was filed by the victims.

According to police officials, the accused have been identified as Munegowda, Anand, Gagan, Tilak, and Akash. The group reportedly carried out the robbery near GITAM University situated in Nagadevanahalli, under the jurisdiction of Doddaballapur in Bengaluru Rural district. The accused allegedly targeted engineering students in the area, threatening and assaulting them before extorting money.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victims, who are Bachelor of Engineering students, were intercepted by the accused near the university. The attackers intimidated them and physically assaulted them, creating fear and forcing them to hand over money. In a concerning detail, the accused reportedly used digital payment platforms such as PhonePe to transfer money directly from the victims' accounts, highlighting a growing trend of tech-enabled crimes.

Police sources stated that the motive behind the crime was to arrange funds for Anand's birthday party. The group allegedly planned the act in advance, identifying students as easy targets. This revelation has raised concerns over rising incidents of petty crimes being committed for trivial reasons.

Following the incident, the injured students approached the police and lodged a formal complaint. Based on their statement, a case was registered, and a swift investigation was launched. The police team acted promptly, tracing the accused and arresting all five individuals involved in the crime. They are currently being interrogated to determine whether they have been involved in similar offenses in the past.

Authorities have assured that strict legal action will be taken against the accused. Meanwhile, police have urged students, especially those living away from home, to remain alert and avoid isolated areas, particularly during late hours.

QUICK READ

SSLC third language exam shifted to March 31

CHITRADURGA

The SSLC Third Language examination has been postponed from March 30 to March 31 due to a change in the Mahavir Jayanti holiday. Earlier, the holiday was scheduled on March 31, but as per a government notification, it has been moved to March 30. Following this, the Karnataka School Examination and Evaluation Board rescheduled the exam to Tuesday, March 31, during the same time slot. Officials confirmed that all other examinations will continue as per the original timetable. Students are advised to note the revised date and prepare accordingly to avoid confusion during the ongoing SSLC examinations.

Legal Awareness program held in Chikkaballapura

CHIKKABALLAPURA

A "Legal Awareness" program was inaugurated by Chief Civil Judge R. Shakuntala at Chintamani Visvesvaraya Technical University Unit College. The event was organized by the Taluk Legal Service Committee and the Chintamani Bar Association as part of World Consumer Day and World Water Day. Assistant Government Prosecutor Anuradha N, college Principal Dr. Basavaraj, Bar Association President B. Srinivas, Vice President Shivananda, Secretary Srinath R.S, Joint Secretary K.N. Manjunath, K.P. Muniraju, and advocates V. Ramesh and Shobha N attended the program. Students, teaching, and non-teaching staff were also present to participate and learn about legal rights and awareness.

Hosadurga invites applications for landless

CHITRADURGA

Hosadurga Municipality has invited applications for the allotment of plots to landless and homeless residents within its limits.

The last date to submit applications is April 30. The decision follows the Shelter Committee meeting held on March 13, 2026, for allocating plots in Goravinakallu R.S. No. 86. Eligible beneficiaries can collect forms from the municipality office and must attach copies of Aadhaar cards of family members, caste and income certificates, ration card, PAN card, voter ID, and bank passbook. A notarized self-certification stating that the applicant does not own property anywhere in India is also required. Late applications will not be considered, officials said.

Hoax bomb threat creates panic at Kolar office

Police and bomb squad thoroughly searched the premises for two hours, found no explosives, and declared the area safe

KOLAR

Panic gripped the Regional Transport Office in Kolar on Friday after officials received an email claiming that bombs had been planted inside the premises. The alert was raised around noon, leading to immediate evacuation of staff and visitors from the building.

Police rushed to the spot and secured the area. A bomb detection and disposal squad conducted a detailed search of the entire premises. Every room, corner, and vehicle parked inside the compound, including buses seized for traffic violations, was thoroughly checked.

After nearly two hours of intensive inspection, officials confirmed that no explosives were found. The situation was declared safe, bringing relief to employees and the public present there.

The incident occurred on the auspicious occasion of Rama Navami, when many devotees had gathered at a nearby temple. Police ensured their safety by restricting movement near the office and maintaining distance from the premises.Security arrangements were tightened along the busy Kolar-KGF State Highway to manage traffic and avoid congestion during the operation.Kannika Sikrival said that the threat appeared to be a hoax after nothing suspicious was found during the search.Sources revealed that the email, received around 11.40 am, claimed that ten bombs had been planted in the office. The message also mentioned unrelated grievances and appeared to be misleading.

Officials recalled a similar hoax threat received at the Deputy Commissioner's office in December last year, raising concerns about repeated false alarms.Police are now investigating the source of the email and have assured strict action against those responsible for creating panic and disrupting public order.

Gardasil 4 vaccine protects against HPV types, available in government hospitals, excluding pregnancy, allergies, and age limits

Parents, teachers must understand HPV vaccine benefits: Venkatesh

CHITRADURGA

District Commissioner T. Venkatesh has directed officials to implement the HPV vaccination campaign effectively to protect girls from cervical cancer.

Speaking at a district-level task force meeting, he said awareness must be created among parents and teachers before giving the vaccine. He stressed that misconceptions about the vaccine should be cleared through proper information and communication.

The vaccine, which costs between ₹9,000 and ₹15,000 in private hospitals, is being provided free by the government. Officials were told to ensure all eligible girls take benefit of this opportunity. Strict action will be taken against those spreading false information, he warned.

District RCH Officer Dr. D. M. Abhinava said girls aged between 14 and 15 years have been identified as beneficiaries. Around 18,267 girls in the district are expected to be covered under the campaign.

The vaccine Gardasil 4 protects against four types of HPV virus. It will be available in government hospitals, including sub-centres, primary health centres, and the district hospital. The drive has already started and will continue for three months.

Officials said the vaccine will not be given to pregnant women, those with allergies, or those outside the age group. Medical staff, including doctors and nurses, are actively involved in the campaign.

Departments like education and women and child welfare have been asked to work together. Schools will hold meetings and appoint teachers to guide students and parents.

Authorities urged the public to cooperate and ensure the health and safety of young girls through timely vaccination.

Mother jumps into well with three children

VIJAYAPURA

In a heartbreaking incident, 28-year-old Rajashree Shankrappa Hallur and her three young children died by suicide Thursday evening in Miragi village, Indi taluk, by jumping into a well.

The victims were identified as Anushree (6), Tanu (3), and Santosh (1). Police suspect Rajashree first threw her children into the well before leaping in herself. Her husband Shankrappa, a private bus driver, was away on duty during the tragedy.

Neighbors alerted authorities after hearing cries.

Indi Rural Police recovered the bodies and began investigations, registering a case at the local station.

The motive remains unclear amid initial probes into possible domestic distress or financial strain.

Autopsies will confirm the sequence of events. The community reels from the shocking loss of an entire family unit.

Theatre helps teachers grow skills and creativity: Basavaraj

CHITRADURGA

Theatre plays an important role in improving teaching skills and personality, said senior writer M. Basavaraj Huruli. He was speaking at the World Theatre Day-26 program held at Bapuji Group of Institutions in Pillekerenahalli village.The event was organised by Ranga Saurabha Kala Sangha and the Kannada and Culture Department. Basavaraj said theatre helps teachers become more attentive, confident, and active in classrooms. He added that teachers should have clear speech, good body language, and leadership qualities to improve education quality.He stressed that lessons should be made more interesting by using theatre methods. According to him, theatre builds creativity, communication skills, and cultural values among students. He also warned that modern technology is changing human relationships, and teachers must stay aware and continue learning. State Vice President of All India Sharan Sahitya Parishad K. M. Veeresh also spoke on the occasion. He said life itself is like a drama and artists help spread real values through performances. He urged the government to support theatre artists and appoint drama teachers in schools.Association president K. Mohan Kumar said theatre and education together improve human values. Principal Prof. M.R. Jayalakshmi presided over the program.

India's first digital census begins with self enumeration

MANDYA

The 2027 Census will be India's first fully digital census, introducing new technology and self-enumeration for the convenience of the public, said District Collector Dr. Kumar.Speaking at a press conference at the District Collector's Office, he explained that the census will be conducted in two phases. The first phase, House Listing and Housing Census, will take place from April 16 to May 15, while the Population Census will be held in February 2027.

He said the house listing process will include 34 questions covering housing conditions, amenities and assets, which will help in planning the population census. The second phase will record detailed personal information of every individual.

Digital census set to revolutionize data collection: G. Prabhu

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The census begins with self-enumeration from April 1–15 online, generating unique IDs, followed by household visits April 16–May 15 for data verification

The district will begin the country's first digital census from April 1, said Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, urging citizens to cooperate fully with the administration.

Speaking at the District Collector's office, he said the census for 2026-27 will continue till May 15. A total of 2,533 enumerators and 422 supervisors have been appointed to carry out the work smoothly across the district.

Officials have divided the district into 3,121 blocks, each covering around 150 to 200 houses and 700 to 800 people. Sixteen officers have been assigned to oversee the process in different areas. Teachers and lecturers will also assist in the survey and supervision work.The first phase, called self-enumeration, will take place from April 1 to April 15. During this period, residents can enter their family details online through the official census portal using their mobile phones. After submitting the details, a unique ID will be generated for further verification.

From April 16 to May 15, enumerators will visit households to collect and verify data. Citizens must share the generated ID with officials during their visits.The survey will gather details about housing conditions, basic facilities, water supply, electricity, and sanitation through several questions. This data will help in planning development programs and improving public services.Officials said accurate information is very important for effective governance and future planning. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to people to provide correct details without any hesitation. Additional District Collector Dr. N. Bhaskar and other officials were present during the briefing, highlighting the importance of public support for the successful completion of the census work.

No petrol or diesel shortage in district

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has assured the public that there is no shortage of petrol or diesel in Chikkaballapur district. Currently, 59 fuel retail outlets are operating, and Senior Sales Officers from IOC confirmed that all outlets have sufficient stock. Fuel is being supplied to each petrol bunk based on demand, ensuring continuous availability. The Deputy Commissioner urged residents not to believe rumours about fuel scarcity and avoid unnecessary worry. Authorities emphasized that adequate measures are in place to maintain steady fuel supply across the district, keeping both petrol and diesel available for consumers without disruption.

Two-day health camp organized for medical students

CHITRADURGA

A two-day health check-up camp for medical students was successfully conducted at the Gnanagangotri campus in Guddadarangavanahalli by Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute. The camp was organized by the Community Medicine Department for first and second year MBBS students.The camp was inaugurated by Dean and Director Dr. B.Y. Yuvaraj, who said that student health is a key responsibility of the institution. He added that such camps, conducted as per National Medical Commission guidelines, help improve the performance of future doctors.District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. G.P. Renuprasad said that these camps help identify lifestyle diseases at an early stage among young people. He advised students to take care of their health and follow healthy habits.District Surgeon Dr. S.P. Ravindra highlighted the importance of maintaining both physical and mental health, especially during academic stress.

CULTURAL HERITAGE HIGHLIGHT

Kalotsava 2026 cultural fest begins with grand spirit

TUMAKURU

The Kalotsava 2026 cultural festival was launched with great enthusiasm at Sri Siddhartha Technical College, offering students a vibrant platform to showcase their talents and creativity.

Inaugurating the event, Nanju A Dappa said art plays an important role in shaping a better life. He noted that cultural activities keep individuals energetic and happy. He added that such festivals help students express their hidden talents and build confidence.

He also highlighted that India is rich in art and culture, but these values are slowly fading in rural areas due to changing lifestyles. He encouraged students to become ambassadors of culture and preserve traditional art forms.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Shravya Matani said talent is a gift that should be used positively. She advised students to identify their abilities and present them confidently to the world for personal growth.

Retired principal Dr. Veeraiah urged students to maintain a positive attitude, focus, and discipline to achieve success in life. College principal Dr. Mahantesh M Nadakatti appreciated students for organizing the festival with creativity and enthusiasm. He encouraged them to actively participate and enjoy the experience.More than 30 competitions are being held as part of the festival, with students participating in large numbers. Faculty members and staff also attended the program. Professors who recently earned their PhDs were honoured during the celebration.The event created a lively atmosphere on campus, celebrating art, culture, and student talent while promoting creativity, learning, and unity among participants.

Mahavir Jayanti celebration planned with grand participation

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti will be celebrated on March 31 at 11 am at the District Collector's Office auditorium, organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Kannada and Culture Department.

The event will be inaugurated by Higher Education Minister M. C. Sudhakar. Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Shivaraj S. Thangadgi will also attend the program.

The function will be presided over by MLA P. E. Pradeep Eshwar. Several dignitaries, including MPs, MLAs, and heads of various state corporations, are expected to participate as chief guests.

Officials from different government departments and Zilla Panchayat Administrator Dr. N. Manjula will also be present. Members of the Jain community, including Sri Mahavir Jain Sangha President Dalapat Raj and Vice President Kantilal Ji, will join as special invitees.

QUICK READ

Applications open for Rural Rehabilitation posts

MANDYA

The Taluk Panchayat Office in K.R. Pete has invited applications for the vacant posts of Rural Rehabilitation Workers under the Rural Rehabilitation Scheme for the Disabled in Murukanahalli Gram Panchayat. Eligible disabled candidates, aged 18 to 45, who have passed or failed SSLC, can apply. Application forms are available from G.V. Basavaraju, rehabilitation worker, at the Taluk Panchayat Office, K.R. Pete, and must be submitted with supporting documents by April 10. The posts offer a monthly honorarium. For more details, applicants can contact G.V. Basavaraju at 9900748434.

Rare war elephant sculpture found in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

A rare relief sculpture showing two enraged elephants locked in battle has been discovered in Gaudgere village, marking an important archaeological find. The discovery was made during a field study by the National Research Forum, said historian and Forum President Layappa Ingale. He noted that this is the first time such a unique sculpture has been found in the region. Experts believe the sculpture dates back to the Devagiri Yadava period, also known as the Seuna dynasty. It was carved on a fort structure in Gaudgere, once connected to their capital. The depiction of fighting elephants is thought to represent a powerful elephant corps and the strong defensive systems used to protect the capital.

Over two lakh devotees expected at Vairamudi festival

Over 1,200 police ensure temple safety, with fire engines, KSRTC buses, and organized parking for public convenience

MANDYA

Mandya district is all set to host the 2026 Sri Vairamudi Brahmotsava at the Melukote Cheluva Narayana Swamy Temple from March 23 to April 4, with the main crowning festival scheduled for March 28. District Collector Dr. Kumar said over two lakh devotees are expected to participate in the celebrations.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Kumar said that more than 1,200 police personnel have been deployed to ensure the safety of devotees and maintain law and order. A special committee under the Additional Superintendent of Police has been formed to supervise security arrangements. Two fire engines and personnel are on standby for emergencies.

For the convenience of visitors, about 140 KSRTC buses will operate from major towns, with advance seat reservations and continuous services from Mandya city. Temporary parking has been arranged near the Zonal Forest Office, with five free mini buses transporting senior citizens, pregnant women, and the general public to the temple. Multiple parking areas have been organized for two-wheelers and four-wheelers at various locations.

Facilities for devotees include 52 temporary toilets, clean drinking water through tankers and taps, and 24×7 medical services with skilled doctors, ambulances, and treatment centers. Food safety is being monitored, and prasad will be distributed continuously from 8 am on March 28 to 8 am on March 29. Cleanliness is being maintained across the temple, roads, drains, and Kalyanis, and the use of plastic has been banned.

Security and monitoring are strengthened with 40 permanent CCTV cameras installed at key locations, with another 40 cameras planned. Cultural programs, special electric lighting, flower decorations, and the Theppotsava on April 1 are also part of the festival.

Dr. Kumar assured that live broadcasts on visual media and YouTube, along with large screens at crowded areas, will allow devotees to witness the rituals remotely. Zilla Panchayat CEO K. R. Nandini, Additional District Collector B. C. Shivananda Murthy, and senior officials from the Information and Public Relations Department were present at the press meet.

Steps urged to prevent summer drinking water crisis

KARWAR

District In-charge Secretary and Zilla Panchayat Administrative Officer Sushma Godabole has directed officials to take advance measures to prevent drinking water shortages in rural areas during the summer season.

Chairing a general meeting at the Zilla Panchayat hall, she instructed officers to prepare a list of villages likely to face water scarcity and ensure alternative arrangements, including the use of private borewells. She emphasized that permission for drilling new borewells should be given only if proper groundwater recharge systems are in place.

She also asked the Horticulture Department to address issues related to faulty rain gauge machines and ensure farmers receive crop insurance benefits without delay.

Focusing on education, she directed officials to support students who failed the SSLC examination in Mundagod and help them appear for the second exam with proper guidance.

Officials informed the meeting that there are no issues in the mid-day meal scheme despite concerns about gas supply, and accommodation has been arranged for literacy staff.

Godabole stressed the need to complete pending construction works of health centres and Anganwadis within the deadline.

She also called for procurement of quality medical equipment and better infrastructure in student hostels.

She further instructed departments to complete Jal Jeevan Mission works and prioritize groundwater recharge. Mapping of water storage structures across departments was also advised.

Uttara Kannada fights drugs with strong measures

KARWAR

The Uttara Kannada district administration has launched a determined campaign to curb drug use, supply, and transportation across the district, aiming to make it drug-free. Authorities are conducting strict inspections, awareness programs, and community outreach to tackle this growing problem.

Since 2023, police and enforcement agencies have registered 106 cases of drug transportation, resulting in 169 arrests. Seized drugs include 75.534 kg of ganja, 3.429 kg of charas, and 1.8 grams of MDAAA, with a total value of nearly Rs. 49 lakh. In addition, 577 people have been arrested in 456 cases of drug consumption, sending a strong message to users and suppliers alike.

Of the 746 individuals caught for drug-related offenses between January 2025 and February 2026, 593 were aged 18–30, and 107 were aged 31–40, highlighting the alarming involvement of the youth.

To educate the public and students about the dangers of drugs, authorities have organized 1,515 awareness programs, visiting 1,005 schools and colleges and interacting with nearly 50,000 students. Another 527 programs reached the general public, while more than 1,500 people participated in 5 km and 10 km marathons promoting a drug-free message.

All colleges, high schools, and pre-university institutions are included in ongoing awareness campaigns, coordinated by the Health Department. Daily monitoring is carried out by key departments, including Police, Excise, Forest, Agriculture, Fisheries, Railways, Port, Postal, and Revenue, with regular ENCORD meetings ensuring strict enforcement. Suspicious parcels and foreign vessels arriving at Karwar port are also thoroughly checked.

Since 2023, police registered 562 drug cases, arrested 746 people, seizing ganja, charas, and MDAAA, revealing high youth involvement in drug offenses.

Over the last three years, authorities have destroyed 93.96 kg of seized ganja worth over Rs. 39 lakh. Officers have undergone training under the NDPS Act, and government guidelines on prevention, surveillance, awareness, and enforcement are being strictly implemented.

Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya emphasized that the district's sustained efforts, community involvement, and strict inter-departmental coordination aim to make Uttara Kannada a safe and narcotics-free district for all.

Vocational fair guides students toward bright futures

MANDYA

A large vocational education exhibition and career fair was successfully held at St. Joseph's Teachers' College, Mandya. The event was jointly organized by the District Education and Training Institute (DIET) Mandya and the District Vocational and Career Guidance Unit under the guidance of Samagra Shikshan Karnataka, Office of the Director of State Planning. The program was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini, who highlighted the importance of proper guidance in helping students and youth choose their future careers. She noted that many students struggle to identify the right path due to limited awareness of their interests, abilities, and opportunities.

The fair offered detailed information about higher education, professional courses, skill development programs, technical training, self-employment opportunities, and competitive exams such as CET, JEE, and NEET. Special focus was also given to students with special needs and government school students seeking educational support. Around 2,500 students, parents, teachers, and officials from across the district participated, visiting over 20 exhibition stalls set up by different departments. Speakers at the event emphasized goal clarity, hard work, and utilizing available resources to succeed in life.

NAME CHANGE

I, **V. TABASSUM**, resident of No:643, Ground Floor, 3 rd Cross Road, HMT Layout, R T Nagar, Bangalore – 560032. have changed my name to **TABASSUM RAWOOF**, vide affidavit dated: 27.03.2026, before Notary N NAGAPPA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DESAI NIKITA DIPAKKUMAR W/o BHAMRA YASHPAL G SINGH**, R/o G908,Ozone Evergreens, Survey No. 53, 54, Off Harlur Rd, off Sarjapura Road, PWD Quarters,1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **NIKITA YASHPAL BHAMRA**.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANEESH TEMKAR S/o GOPINATH GOVINDARAO TEMKAR** R/o T03 3rd Floor, Vintage Elite, Block A, Canara Bank, Kodichikkanahalli, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076, have changed the name of my minor daughter **SUKRUTHA M** aged 8 years and she shall hereafter be known as **ARADHYA .M.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUJAN RATHOD S/o SOMSING RATHOD**, R/o B 105, Jyothi Enclave, 1st A Cross, Kaggadasapura Main Road, C V Raman Nagar, C.V.Raman Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as**CHARVIK RATHOD**.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, **TIRAKANAGOWDA S PATIL S/o late SANNABASANAGOWDA**, R/o 193, Manjunathnagar Ijarilakamapur, Haveri Town, Haveri, Karnataka-581110, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as **TIRAKANA GOWDA PATIL** in my PPO No-232200005481. The actual name of mine is T**IRAKANAGOWDA S PATIL**, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, **SUCHITA LUNDIA D/o BIJAY KUMAR SINGH** Ex. **W/o RAHUL LUNDIA**, R/o 3rd Cross Rd, Asha Township, Off Hennur Main Road, Doddagubbi Main Road, Near BITS Club, Rajajinagar, Doddagubbi, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560077, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree No. M.C.No. 4628/2025 dt. 24.07.2025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **SUCHITA SINGH.**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1034/2025

Petitioners:
Sri.Shivaprasad.K.R S/o Late Rudrappa Aged about 49 years, R/at Kamaluru Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent :
Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of 1st, 3rd & 4th petitioner father and Husband of 2nd petitioner by name **LATE RUDRAPPA S/O LATE BHADREGOWDA** who died on 22.05.1992 at Kamaluru Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29-4-26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of 3, 2026.

By Order of the Court : Chief Ministeral Officer
Pri Civil Judge & JMFC. Doddaballapura
Advocate : T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMIES NO: 1055/2025

BEETWEEN:
Sri Shivakumar Nayak, Suttahalli Village, Doddaballapur Taluk ...PETITIONER
AND
REGISTRAR OF BIRTH AND DEATHS REPRESENTED THAHASILDAR DODDABALLAPUR
...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner filed a petition under section 13(3) of the Regiestration of Birth and Death act:1969, for obating death certificate of her deceased Grand mother of the petitioner namely suttahalli village, Late. Hemalibayi W/O Late Samyanaik R/at Thippuru post, saslu hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, and Bangalore Rural distic, who was died on 06/11/1995 at home i.e suttahalli village, Thippuru post, saslu hobali, Doddaballapur Taluk, and Bangaloure rural distic.

Hearing date of the above case is on 02.05.26 if any person having any claim of objections With this regard they may appear before this Hon'ble court in person/by pleader on the date meantioned above at about 11.00 AM failing Which the petition will be disposed of ex- perte.

Even my hand and seal of this Hon'ble court on this date 26.3.26.

By the order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer
Pri. Civil Judge and JMFC, Doddaballapur
Advocate for petitioner : ANANDA KUMAR, ADVOCATE, NO.2 R.N.A COMPLEX 1 FLOOR

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Crl. Misc. No. 423/2025

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. Ramakrishana. K, S/o Late. Kenchappa, aged about 70 years, **2. Smt. Hanumakka,** D/o Late. Kenchappa, aged about 79 years, **3. Smt. Kempamma,** D/o Late Kenchappa, aged about 77 years, **4. Smt. Rathnamma,** W/o Late Linganna, aged about 72 years, **5. Smt. Parvathamma,** D/o Late Kenchappa, aged about 73 years, All are R/at, No.361, Hanabe Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District ...**Petitioners**
AND: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura, Doddaballapura Taluk ...**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners have filed the above petition under section 13 (3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Grandfather of petitioner by name late **Sri. Siddappa** S/o Late. Doddathayappa who died on 11/03/1976 at Hanabe Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever as interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on **28/04/2026** in default this matter will be heard and disposed of an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 26/03/2026

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura
N. BASAVARAJU, Advocate
BSS LAW CHAMBERS
Near Civil Court Complex, Doddaballapura

Stagnant drain water worries Hunsur residents

HUNSUR

Residents of Manjunatha Barangay in Hunsur city are facing health risks due to stagnant underground drainage (UGD) water that has remained uncleaned for over a month. The blocked drains are overflowing, spreading dirty water across roads and creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

People living nearby are worried about mosquito-borne diseases and fear for their health. Many have reported the issue to city council officials, but no effective action has been taken so far.

Although the city council is conducting cleanliness campaigns, officials' inaction on such critical drainage problems is increasing the risk of waterlogging and public health hazards.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ashoka S/o. Siddegowda R/o. Goravanahalli Village, Maddur Taluk My wife original sale deed dated 12-10-2011 in respect of the property Janjer No.601, property No.449, measuring 30 X 45 feet the said property situated at Goravanahalli Village, Maddur Taluk as document No.MDR-1-05774-2011-12, CD No.MDRD69, I was lost the said sale deed on 24-03- 2026 at Goravanahalli in this connection I filed the complaint before the Consent Police Station in this connection endorsement issued on 25-03-2026 if any one trace please intimates me or said Police within 7 days..

By M.Guruprasad,
Advocate, No.2, M.Lingaiah Building,
V.V.Road, Mandya-571401.
Mob:9242221603.

Hunsur, Piriyapatna praised for effective waste management efforts

HUNSUR

Hunsur and Piriyapatna taluks in Mysuru district have been appreciated for their effective management of solid and liquid waste, with officials urging them to become model regions for others to follow. Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary (Development) Bhimappa K. Lali spoke at the "Swachh Shakti Samman" award ceremony held at Ambedkar Bhavan. The event was organized under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in collaboration with Zilla Panchayat Mysuru, Taluk Panchayats of Hunsur and Piriyapatna, ITC, Outreach and MyCaps.

He highlighted the important role played by ITC in conducting awareness activities and said women from Sanjeevini groups are doing commendable work in separating wet and dry waste. He expressed confidence that more women would join such initiatives in the future.

MyCaps Executive Director Ashrapul Hasan stressed the need for greater awareness about cleanliness, noting that despite many programs, progress is slow. He said neglecting cleanliness can directly affect human health and urged people to take responsibility.

ITC Program Officer Manoj M. said people must change the habit of throwing waste carelessly and treat cleanliness as everyone's duty. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Hongaiah K., who presided over the function, said waste management is a dignified task and should be carried out with dedication using modern methods.

Under the awards, Bannikuppe Gram Panchayat secured first place, followed by another village in second place, and Karimuddanahalli in third.

CONSUMER SAFETY CONCERN

ACTION SOUGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL SLAUGHTER OF SICK LAMBS

HUNSUR

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike leaders have demanded strict action against slaughterhouses in the city for allegedly slaughtering sick lambs without proper health checks, raising serious concerns over public safety.

District President Purushottam submitted a petition to Chief Veterinary Officer (Administration) Dr. Channabasappa, urging immediate steps to stop the illegal practice.

He said that several slaughterhouses are reportedly bringing sick or dying sheep at low prices and slaughtering them without medical inspection, which could pose health risks to consumers.

Speaking to reporters, Purushottam alleged that despite clear rules, veterinary checks are being ignored. He stressed that animals brought for slaughter must be examined and certified healthy by veterinary doctors before being processed for food. He also criticized officials for negligence, claiming that such actions are allowing unsafe meat to enter the market.

He warned that if authorities fail to act, the organization will launch protests in front of concerned offices. He also demanded strict legal action against those involved in slaughtering and selling meat without proper health certification.

Responding to the allegations, Dr. Channabasappa acknowledged receiving the complaint and said instructions have already been issued. He stated that veterinary staff and city council health inspectors have been directed to inspect slaughterhouses regularly, especially in the morning hours.

He emphasized that only healthy sheep and goats should be allowed for slaughter after proper medical verification.

Officials assured that monitoring will be strengthened to ensure compliance with rules and protect public health.

QUICK READ

Wedding Bus Overturns in Ujjain, 27 Injured

Ujjain

A bus carrying wedding guests overturned in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh on Friday, injuring over 27 people. The accident took place near Jahangirpur village on Badnagar Road. Police said the driver lost control while trying to overtake another vehicle during road work. Passengers, including women and children, were trapped inside. Villagers helped rescue them before police arrived. The injured were taken to a government hospital in Ingoria. Officials confirmed that no deaths or critical injuries were reported.

Uncle Suspected in Bihar Triple Child Murder

Patna

Three children were murdered in Bihar's Aurangabad district on Friday, with police suspecting their uncle. The incident took place in Khuthatan village under Haspura police limits. The accused, Amant Pal, allegedly entered the house and attacked the children with a sharp weapon. The victims were identified as Anish Kumar (10), Ayush Kumar (7), and Anushka Kumari (5). After the attack, he tried to harm himself and was hospitalised. Police have registered a case and started an investigation. The incident has shocked the local community.

Delhi Assembly Revives PAC Reports After Fifteen Years Gap

Intro: Speaker praised PAC's role, Rekha Gupta government support, timely reports, and directed departments to act promptly

NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Friday welcomed the adoption of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reports by the House after a long gap of over 15 years. He criticised the previous Aam Aadmi Party government, stating that it failed to present Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports in the Assembly, which made the PAC inactive for years.

Gupta said that not a single PAC report was tabled during that period, affecting financial oversight. He added that all pending CAG reports have now been placed before the House and sent to the PAC and the Committee on Government Undertakings for review.

Highlighting the role of the PAC, the Speaker said it is an important body that ensures transparency and checks misuse of public funds. He expressed satisfaction that the committee has now started functioning effectively again.

He also praised the government led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta for supporting this process. According to him, the PAC has submitted three reports within one year, focusing on key sectors such as health, excise, and vehicular pollution.

Gupta appreciated the committee members for their work and said their recommendations are detailed and practical. He noted that several government departments have already started taking corrective steps based on these findings.

The Speaker further directed all concerned departments to submit Action Taken Notes (ATNs) within the given timeline. He also instructed the Assembly Secretariat to send the reports quickly to ensure timely action.He said this step will strengthen accountability and improve governance in Delhi.

JAN VISHWAS BILL INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

NEW DELHI

The government on Friday introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha to decriminalise minor offences and improve ease of doing business and living. The bill was presented by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada after including suggestions from a select committee.

The bill aims to reduce legal burden by removing criminal penalties for small violations and replacing them with fines and administrative actions. It proposes changes in 79 central laws, covering 784 provisions. Out of these, 717 provisions are set to be decriminalised, while 67 are aimed at improving ease of living.

However, some opposition leaders raised concerns over the bill. Congress members K Kavya and GK Padavi opposed its introduction, saying it could affect the basic structure of the Constitution. Padavi also called the bill arbitrary and warned that it may encourage corruption. He urged the government to send it again to a select committee or a joint parliamentary committee for further review.

Responding to the criticism, Prasada said that wide consultations were held before finalising the bill. He clarified that only minor offences are being decriminalised and the aim is to promote trust-based governance. He added that the bill also proposes setting up appellate authorities and revising penalties to make them fair and proportionate.

The bill was earlier withdrawn on March 17 for revision after committee recommendations. It builds on the earlier 2023 law introduced by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, which decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 central laws.

> **The government introduced a bill to decriminalise minor offences, aiming to boost ease of doing business and improve governance**

Mamata Criticises Excise Cuts Using Saree Analogy

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday criticised the Centre's recent decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, likening it to bargaining in a saree store.

"If you ask the price of a saree, he may say Rs 1,000, but after bargaining, he agrees to Rs 400. Similarly, prices of gas have increased, and even if the excise duty is cut now, where will the price actually stop?" she questioned.

Expressing concern over the LPG crisis, Mamata demanded that gas cylinders from Haldia should not be sent outside West Bengal. She also called for administrative reforms across departments, from police officers to block development officers, to prevent public inconvenience despite sufficient local fuel supplies.

Meanwhile, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Nitin Gadkari praised the excise duty cut, calling it a citizen-focused initiative amid global fuel price surges caused by the West Asia conflict. Gadkari said the step reflects the government's strong commitment to public welfare and comes at a time when several countries are increasing fuel prices.

The Central government reduced excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 per litre and made diesel duty-free, along with imposing a windfall tax of Rs 21.5 per litre on diesel exports.

The move comes amid rising tensions in West Asia, especially the US-Israel-Iran conflict, which has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route handling nearly one-fifth of global crude oil.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas assured citizens that fuel supplies remain stable, retail outlets are functioning normally, and adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available nationwide, urging people to avoid panic buying.

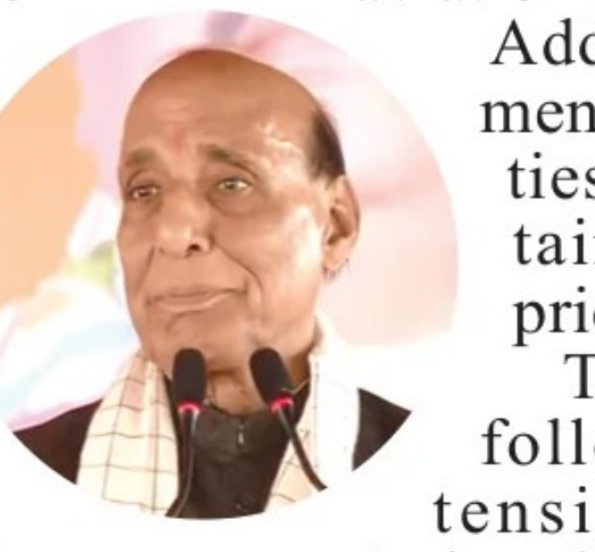
RAJNATH SINGH TO LEAD MIDDLE EAST MONITORING GROUP

NEW DELHI

The government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group to closely monitor developments stemming from the ongoing Middle East conflict, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh appointed as its head. Key members of the group include Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, along with other ministers, sources said.

The announcement comes amid urgent steps to stabilise fuel prices and energy supplies.

Earlier, the government reduced excise duties on petrol to Rs 3 per litre and zeroed diesel excise. A windfall tax of Rs 21.5 per litre was imposed on diesel exports.



Taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) were revised, introducing a special excise duty of Rs 50 per litre. Exemptions limit the effective rate to Rs 29.5 per litre, easing pressure on the aviation sector.

Additional adjustments to excise duties aim to maintain overall fuel price stability.

These measures follow escalating tensions in West Asia, including the US-Israel conflict with Iran, which led to a Tehran-imposed blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

This route handles nearly a fifth of the world's crude oil and gas, between 20 and 25 million barrels daily.

Before the crisis, India sourced about 12–15% of its oil through this corridor.

The Petroleum Ministry assured stable fuel supplies and normal operations at retail outlets, urging citizens against panic buying. Meanwhile, the Israel Defence Forces struck Iran's missile facility in Yazd. Rajnath Singh's Inter-Ministerial Group will monitor the situation and advise measures to safeguard India's energy security and economic stability.

Kerala election campaigns showcase a unique mix of traditional wall art and modern technology

Kerala Poll Campaign Blends Tradition with Modern Technology

KOCHI

As Kerala gears up for Assembly elections, campaigning reflects a blend of old traditions and new innovations. A scene from the 1980 Malayalam film Mela, showing a wall message supporting A. K. Saseendran, has gone viral, reminding people of earlier campaign styles. Saseendran, now 80, is again contesting from Elathur, bringing back memories of his simple yet effective wall-painting campaigns.

Across the state, colourful wall writings and graffiti continue to grab attention. However, artists say their numbers are declining despite high demand during elections. Shaji, a graffiti artist from Kochi, said only a handful of skilled painters remain in key areas like Ernakulam. He added that artists handle hundreds of wall writings each election but now face tight schedules due to shorter campaign periods.

The issue gained attention after Congress candidate Ramesh Pisharody used a robot to paint a wall in Palakkad. The machine, called "Chuvarbot," can quickly create designs, but artists believe it cannot replace human creativity. They say machines follow fixed patterns, while artists adjust designs based on wall size and style.

Experienced artist Ayyappankutty said the profession has seen fewer newcomers over the years, partly due to the rise of flex banners. Still, artists are adapting by creating 3D designs and portraits to stay relevant.

Jairam Ramesh Questions Timing Of Fuel Duty

NEW DELHI : Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday questioned the timing of the Central government's recent excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel, suggesting the move was politically motivated ahead of upcoming Assembly elections. In a post on X, he noted that during the past 12 years, when global crude oil prices fell on seven occasions, the government did not reduce consumer fuel prices. "Today's announcement was because of Assembly elections. Wait till April 30th," he wrote. The comments follow the government's decision to cut excise duty on petrol to ₹3 per litre and bring it to zero for diesel, under the Central Excise Act, 1944. A windfall tax of ₹21.5 per litre was also imposed on diesel exports.

Gadkari Praises Excise Duty Cut on Petrol and Diesel

NEW DELHI : Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday praised the Centre's decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, calling it a citizen-focused step demonstrating strong public welfare commitment. He highlighted that amid rising global fuel prices caused by the West Asia conflict, the duty reduction will provide relief to households and businesses.The government reduced excise duty on petrol by Rs 3 per litre and brought diesel duty to zero. A windfall tax of Rs 21.5 per litre has also been imposed on diesel exports. Gadkari said the move shows governance aimed at cushioning citizens from global economic shocks, contrasting with other countries that continue raising fuel prices.

IN THE COURT OF THE Ist ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1188/2025

Petitioners:
Sri.Chikkarasaiah S/o Late Venkataramanaiah Aged about 67 years. R/at Hulikunte Village and Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.

V/s

Respondent :
Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Elder father of petitioners by name **LATE HANUMAIAH S/O LATE MUTHAA** who died on 15.06.1982 at Hulikunte Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli. Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29-4-26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of 3, 2026.

By Order of the Court : Chief Ministeral Officer
Pri Civil Judge & JMFC. Doddaballapura

Advocate : T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE Ist ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1187/2025

Petitioners:
Sri.Chikkarasaiah S/o Late Venkataramanaiah Aged about 67 years, R/at Hulikunte Village and Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.

V/s

Respondent :
Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Elder mother of petitioners by name **LATE GANGAMMA W/O LATE HANUMAIAH** who died on 09.10.1987 at Hulikunte Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29-4-26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of 3, 2026.

By Order of the Court : Chief Ministeral Officer
Pri Civil Judge & JMFC. Doddaballapura

Advocate : T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE Ist ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1190/2025

Petitioners:
Sri.Chikkarasaiah, S/o Late Venkataramanaiah Aged about 67 years, R/at Hulikunte Village and Post, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.

V/s

Respondent :
Registrar of Birth and death, The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioners by name **LATE MUTHAMMA W/O LATE VENKATARAMANAIAH** who died on 13.09.1993 at Hulikunte Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29-4-26. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 27th day of 3, 2026.

By Order of the Court : Chief Ministeral Officer
Pri Civil Judge & JMFC. Doddaballapura

Advocate : T.J.Shivakumar, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ–576201

No.ACF/CR- 168/E-TENDER/OUTSOURCE/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–03–2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಡುವ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಲಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿಪೋಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು / ಲಿಪಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು / ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 'ಡಿ' ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ನೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ **(Outsourcing)** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ. **08–04–2026** ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ **4.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸಮಯ: ದಿ. **09–04–2026** ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸಮಯ: ದಿ. **10–04–2026** ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ **4.35** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ
ಉ.ಅ.ಸಂರವರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು
ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/822/
25–26 ದಿ: 27–03.2026

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CE Division, Hassan, KSRTC Regional Training Institute building near Dairy Circle,
Ring road, Hassan-573201. Office No-08172-295262, Gmail:eehsn@ksrtc.org

NO/KST/EEH/JE/662/2025-26 **Date: 25-03-2026**

KPPP PORTAL E TENDER NOTIFICATION - No:15/2025-26

Tenders are invited in KPPP PORTAL E-Procurement mode from eligible registered KPWD/CPWD/MES Contractors for the following work. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded free of cost from the E-Procurement web site **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** From 31-03-2026 onwards.

Sl. no	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (in Rs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)	Last Date for submission Tender
1	Upgradation of Training Classroom No.8 in ADM block(GF)at DTI Hassan.	Rs. 18,32,600.00	Rs. 46,000.00	15.04.2026

More details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, KSRTC,CE Division, KSRTC Regional Training Institute building, Near Dairy Circle, Ring road, Hassan during working hours on all working days.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, KSRTC:CE Division: Hassan

DIPR/CP/6489/Zen/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ((ಪೂರ್ವ&ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ–ಮೇಲ್– eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–32/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
	ಮುಂದೂಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–87/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026	11	212.37	26.03.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	09.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ	10.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.20 ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ ಕಾಇಂ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–88/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2026	09	66.50	26.03.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	09.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ	10.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.20 ರ ನಂತರ
	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
3	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–93/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2026	02	115.00	25.03.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	01.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	02.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ರ ನಂತರ
4	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ ಕಾಇಂ(ಪೂ)/ ಟಿ.ಎನ್–94/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026	02	102.00	27.03.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	04.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	06.04.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ & ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ಸಿವಿಲ್ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು..

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1897/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಪಿ/2025–26

QUICK READ

Live-in With Married Man Not Illegal: High Court

PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court has said that a married man living in a live-in relationship with an adult woman, with mutual consent, is not an offence.

Hearing a plea from a couple seeking protection from threats by the woman's family, the court said law cannot be guided by social morality. The bench of Justice J J Munir and Justice Tarun Saxena noted the woman was living by choice and raised concerns over police inaction despite threats.

Panel Flags Major Aviation Safety Concerns

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel has raised serious concerns about aviation safety in India, noting that nearly 50 per cent of aircraft inspected had recurring technical defects. The Standing Committee on Civil Aviation found 377 out of 754 aircraft showed repeated issues between January 2025 and February 2026. IndiGo had the highest number of cases, while Air India and Air India Express also reported significant defects, prompting calls for urgent safety reforms.

Nitish Kumar Likely To Quit Bihar Council Seat

PATNA

Nitish Kumar is expected to resign from the Bihar Legislative Council on March 30 after being elected to the Rajya Sabha, sources said. As per constitutional rules, a person cannot hold membership in two Houses at the same time and must give up one seat within 14 days. Kumar, who won the Rajya Sabha election on March 16, is likely to submit his resignation once the Bihar Assembly and Legislative Council sessions resume on March 30. Both Houses are currently in recess until March 29, and officials indicated that the decision to step down from the Council is almost final.

A veteran leader and the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar, Kumar was among candidates elected during recent polls held for 11 seats across Bihar, Odisha and Haryana. The remaining seats were filled without contest.After his victory, Kumar thanked the people of Bihar for their continued support over the past two decades. He said their trust had allowed him to serve the state with commitment and contribute to its progress and reputation.

US Highlights Trump Praise For Modi Amid Tensions

US embassy spotlights Donald Trump praise for Narendra Modi, boosting bilateral ties

NEW DELHI

US embassy shares Trump's remarks praising Modi, signalling stronger India-US ties amid rising West Asia tensions.The United States Embassy in India on Friday highlighted comments by Donald Trump praising Narendra Modi as a leader who "gets things done," expressing optimism about future bilateral ties. The post gained attention due to its timing, as tensions continue to rise in West Asia.

In the message, Trump described the India-US relationship as strong and said it would grow even stronger. He noted that both he and Modi are leaders focused on delivering results, adding that such effectiveness is rare among global leaders. The remarks came shortly after a phone call between the two leaders earlier this week.During the conversation, both leaders discussed the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which has created instability in the region. After the call, Modi reiterated India's position, stressing the need for peace and de-escalation. He highlighted the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure, calling it vital for global trade and energy supplies.

Narendra Modi shared details of the discussion on social media, saying both sides agreed to remain in close contact and work towards restoring stability. He stressed that smooth and uninterrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is vital for the global economy.The situation has worsened after recent military actions by the United States and Israel, which led to strong retaliation from Iran. These developments have caused global concern, especially affecting oil prices and markets.

Despite tensions, Donald Trump and Modi highlighted continued cooperation. Their partnership has grown across trade, defence and strategic sectors, showing a strong and result-oriented relationship.

Pakistan Mediates Iran Crisis, Battles Afghanistan Simultaneously

Pakistan pushes mediation in the US-Iran conflict while continuing intense military actions against Afghanistan, raising questions over its credibility and strategic priorities

NEW DELHI

Pakistan is attempting to position itself as a mediator in the ongoing tensions between the United States and Iran, even as its conflict with Afghanistan continues. Reports indicate that Islamabad is facilitating indirect talks between Washington and Tehran to prevent further escalation in the region.Donald Trump recently announced a brief pause in strikes on Iran's energy sites, calling the backchannel efforts "productive." Pakistan, along with Turkiye and Egypt, is said to be playing a role in these diplomatic exchanges. Islamabad has also offered to host direct talks between senior officials from both countries.Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are reportedly leading this effort, using ties with regional allies to boost Pakistan's role. Analysts say the move is aimed at improving the country's global image and gaining economic and political leverage.However, Pakistan's actions in Afghanistan present a contrasting picture. It has declared an "open war" on Kabul, carrying out airstrikes in multiple cities, including the capital. Hundreds have reportedly been killed in recent weeks, including civilians in a bombing of a drug rehabilitation centre.

The conflict is rooted in disputes over the Durand Line border and mutual accusations of supporting militant groups. Despite earlier ceasefire attempts mediated by Qatar and Turkiye, violence has resumed.

Experts warn that Pakistan's dual approach—seeking peace abroad while escalating conflict next door—may weaken its credibility. While successful mediation could bring economic benefits and global support, failure risks further isolation and instability for Islamabad.

US-India ties gain momentum as key leaders meet and reaffirm cooperation across diplomacy, defence, and strategy

US Reaffirms Strong India Ties Amid Key Diplomatic Meetings

NEW DELHI

Taranjit Singh Sandhu recently met Sergio Gor, highlighting the stable and growing relationship between India and the United States. The meeting comes at a time when both nations continue to engage regularly through high-level discussions across multiple sectors, including diplomacy, trade, and defence.

Sandhu described the meeting as friendly and productive, reflecting his long-standing association with US officials. Earlier, Gor had extended his congratulations to Sandhu on taking oath as Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, succeeding Vinai Kumar Saxena. With over three decades of diplomatic experience, Sandhu served as India's Ambassador to the United States from 2020 to 2024 and played a key role in strengthening ties between the two countries.

The United States Embassy in India also reinforced the strength of bilateral relations by sharing remarks from Donald Trump. In his message, Trump praised Narendra Modi and expressed confidence that cooperation between the two nations would continue to grow, highlighting their focus on delivering results and achieving shared goals.

Meanwhile, defence cooperation has also seen notable progress. Elbridge Colby visited India and held key discussions with S Jaishankar and Vikram Misri. He also co-chaired an important Defence Policy Group meeting with Rajesh Kumar Singh, focusing on strengthening strategic cooperation.

The talks were centred on advancing the 2026 National Defence Strategy and deepening the India-US Major Defence Partnership, a framework earlier signed by Pete Hegseth and Rajnath Singh in October 2025.

These ongoing diplomatic and defence engagements clearly show a deepening, practical, and result-driven partnership between India and the United States.

Twelve Arrested In Multi-State Operation Over Terror Links

NEW DELHI

|Twelve individuals suspected of having links with banned terror groups have been arrested in a joint operation across several states, officials said. The accused were allegedly connected to outfits like ISIS and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.

The arrests were made from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana in a coordinated effort led by police teams from Andhra Pradesh and Delhi. Investigations revealed that the accused had reportedly contacted foreign handlers through a gaming application and later became part of an online network linked to extremist activities.Officials said the group was associated with a network identified as "Benex Com," believed to have links with ISIS. The accused allegedly shared anti-national content on social media, including posts supporting terror outfits, insulting national symbols, and spreading extremist views.

Adani Ports Launches India's First Port of Refuge

AHMEDABAD

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd has operationalised India's first Port of Refuge (PoR), aiming to strengthen maritime safety and emergency response systems. The initiative fills a long-standing gap by creating a structured mechanism to assist ships in distress.

The project is supported by a tripartite agreement with SMIT Salvage, part of Royal Boskalis Westminster NV, and the Maritime Emergency Response Centre, ensuring coordinated global expertise in handling emergencies.

A Port of Refuge, as defined by the International Maritime Organization, is a designated place where vessels facing danger can seek shelter to protect lives and reduce environmental damage. While common globally, India had not formalised such a system until now.

APSEZ will establish two PoR sites—Dighi Port on the west coast and Gopalpur Port on the east coast. These locations will support key routes across the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, and the Malacca Strait.

The facilities will provide services such as salvage operations, firefighting, pollution control, and emergency coordination using specialised equipment and trained teams.

APSEZ CEO Ashwani Gupta said the initiative marks a major step in improving India's maritime safety framework. Officials, including Shyam Jagannathan, highlighted that the move aligns with global standards and will enhance protection of life, cargo, and the environment.

Kerala to Introduce Karnataka-Style Guarantee Scheme: Jameer Ahmad Khan

CALICUT

Minister Jameer Ahmad Khan announced that if Congress comes to power in Kerala, the state will launch a guarantee scheme modeled on Karnataka's successful programs.

During his election campaign, the minister addressed a public meeting supporting UDF candidate P.V. Anwar from the Beypore Assembly constituency. He outlined key welfare initiatives, including free bus travel for women, a monthly ₹1,000 allowance for girl children, ₹25 lakh insurance per family, a ₹2,000 monthly pension for senior citizens, and interest-free skill development loans up to ₹5 lakh. Jameer Ahmad Khan highlighted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had already announced these schemes for Kerala and urged voters to back the party to implement them.

He criticized the LDF, saying they claimed such schemes were impossible to execute, similar to opposition remarks in Karnataka. However, Karnataka successfully implemented the programs under Congress. He added that the previous government's ten-year tenure had produced no major achievements.

After the meeting, Jameer Ahmad Khan led a roadshow supporting Congress candidate Vidya Balakrishnan in the Yelattur constituency.

Earlier, the minister also paid respects to E P Ustad at Markaz in Calicut during the campaign. The event was attended by Maulana Shafi Saadi and former Wakf Board president Anwar Basha.

Mehbooba Criticises Omar Abdullah Over Delay In Iran Statement

SRINAGAR

Mehbooba Mufti on Friday strongly criticised Omar Abdullah for taking nearly a month to clearly condemn Israel's attack on Iran, describing the delay as "disheartening" and disappointing.

Addressing the Assembly, Abdullah termed the conflict an "unjust and illegal war" and called for immediate steps to restore peace in the region. He urged Narendra Modi to use India's diplomatic influence to help end the war in the interest of humanity. He also expressed condolences over the loss of lives, including that of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with others affected in the conflict.

Reacting to his remarks, Mehbooba Mufti said it was disappointing that the Chief Minister took so long to make a clear and strong statement. In a post on social media, she questioned the delay and criticised the government for not showing urgency on an important international issue.

She further pointed out that the Punjab Legislative Assembly had acted quickly by passing a resolution.

FOREIGN CASH FOUND

Foreign Currency Found In Temple Donation Boxes

DEOGHAR

Authorities discovered foreign currencies, including Pakistani notes, in donation boxes at the Baba Baidyanath Temple during a routine counting exercise, officials said. This marks the first instance of Pakistani currency being found among temple offerings, making it an unusual development.

During the process, officials counted more than Rs 32 lakh in Indian currency. In addition, the collection included over 9,000 Nepalese rupees, 11 US dollars, 100 Pakistani rupees, and 20 euros. Naman Priyesh Lakra confirmed the findings and stated that all the donations were being carefully checked and recorded.

The temple authorities opened a total of 18 donation boxes under tight security arrangements and official supervision. After the initial collection, the entire amount, including Rs 32,14,245 in Indian currency, was shifted to an administrative office where detailed counting and documentation were carried out.

The Baidyanath Dham holds great religious importance as it is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is also recognised as a Shakti Peetha, drawing thousands of devotees from across India and abroad throughout the year.

Devotees usually make offerings anonymously by dropping money into donation boxes placed across the temple premises. Officials believe the presence of foreign currencies could be due to contributions from international visitors.

As per Hindu belief, the temple is associated with the legend of Ravana, who is believed to have placed the Shiva linga here during his journey to Lanka, adding to its spiritual significance.

QUICK READ

Derailments Raise Safety Concerns Over Pakistan Railways

Lahore
A series of train derailments has raised serious concerns about safety in Pakistan Railways despite a recent rise in revenue during Eid. Just a day after the festival, the Karachi-bound Tezgam Express derailed in Punjab, injuring several passengers. Commuters expressed frustration over repeated accidents and lack of lasting solutions. Another incident involving the Shalimar Express added to worries. Experts point to outdated tracks and signalling systems as key issues. With fares also rising, passengers are demanding urgent safety improvements.

Violence Triggers Mass Displacement In North Waziristan

North Waziristan
Rising violence in Shewa tehsil has forced entire communities to flee, creating a serious humanitarian crisis. Villages like Darozanda, Alamkhel, Malokhel, and Anarkhel have been deserted, with residents moving to safer districts. Locals blame targeted killings and militant activity for the sudden decline in security. Daily life has collapsed, with schools shut and markets closed. Women and children are the worst affected, leaving homes with few belongings. Residents are demanding urgent action to restore peace and ensure safe resettlement.

Israel Strikes Iran Missile Facility amid Rising Tensions

Despite renewed peace signals, tensions between Israel and Iran continue rising with fresh strikes

JERUSALEM

The Israel Defence Forces stated that it carried out a strike on a major Iranian missile production facility in Yazd, focusing on infrastructure linked to the development and storage of advanced weapons. The site was reportedly used to support missile launches from submarines, helicopters, and cruise platforms targeting maritime locations.

According to the IDF, its Air Force also launched operations across Tehran and parts of western Iran, concentrating on ballistic missile production units. Acting on military intelligence, overnight strikes targeted missile launchers and storage facilities seen as potential threats to Israel's security.

In separate operations, nearly 20 fighter jet sorties were conducted over regions including Kermanshah and Dezful. Around 70 munitions were used to hit missile systems and air defence installations. The IDF added that personnel associated with these sites were also neutralised during the attacks.

At the same time, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced a fresh phase of its campaign, Operation True Promise 4, targeting US and Israeli-linked assets such as military bases and oil facilities. The IDF also reported detecting new ballistic missile launches from Iran following a short pause.

IDF Targets Iranian Naval Missile Production Site At Yazd

TEL AVIV
The Israel Defence Forces said it targeted a major Iranian facility in Yazd used for producing naval missiles and sea mines. According to the IDF, the site handled planning, development, assembly, and storage of advanced weapons meant for maritime attacks.
Guided by intelligence and naval units, the strike was described as a major blow to Iran's naval capabilities. Iran has not officially confirmed the attack.
The IDF also reported overnight strikes across Tehran and western Iran, hitting missile launchers, storage sites, and air defence systems. Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks under Operation True Promise 4. Explosions were reported in parts of the Gulf region, while the United States is considering deploying more troops.

Controversy Over Gita Recitation At Bangladesh Event

DHAKA

A controversy erupted during Bangladesh's Independence Day event after a directive allegedly sought to stop recitation from the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. The instruction was reportedly linked to MP Professor Mujibur Rahman during a state function in Tanore. The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance strongly protested, calling it discriminatory. However, officials later ensured that the traditional multi-faith recitations, including the Gita, were conducted. The organisation has demanded accountability and clarification from authorities over the incident.

Pakistan criticised at United Nations Human Rights Council over alleged human rights violations in Balochistan

Iran Vows Continued Defence Amid UN War Crime Allegations

GENEVA

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi strongly criticised the United States and Israel over recent strikes on civilian sites, calling them serious violations of international law.

Addressing a debate at the United Nations, Araghchi highlighted a deadly attack on a girls' school in Minab that reportedly killed more than 160 people. He described the strike as a deliberate act and termed it a war crime, urging global action against those responsible.

He warned that silence from the international community would only encourage further violence and weaken global peace efforts. According to him, the principles of the United Nations and the broader human rights framework are at risk if such incidents go unchecked.

Araghchi stressed that Iran does not seek conflict but will continue to defend itself for as long as necessary. He said the country remains determined to respond to what he described as ongoing aggression.

He also pointed to widespread damage to civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, water facilities, and residential areas. Over 600 schools have reportedly been damaged, with many students and teachers affected. Calling the attacks unjust, he urged nations to hold those responsible accountable. His remarks come as tensions remain high, with continued strikes despite recent signals of possible de-escalation.

Baloch human rights activist Fateh Baloch raised concerns at the United Nations Human Rights Council over worsening conditions in Balochistan. He accused Pakistani authorities of using collective punishment, arbitrary detentions, and surveillance to suppress dissent. He alleged that security operations, home demolitions, and enforced disappearances have created fear, disrupted livelihoods, and affected families. The activist urged global intervention, calling for investigations, accountability, and protection of basic human rights.

India Strengthens Strategic Ties with Israel

WASHINGTON

India's pragmatic and balanced approach in the Middle East is helping deepen its strategic partnership with Israel, according to a report by the Middle East Forum.

Over the past three decades, ties between India and Israel have steadily grown from limited diplomatic engagement into a strong relationship focused on defence and technology. Shared concerns over terrorism, regional instability, and security challenges have played a key role in bringing the two countries closer.

The report noted that Israel has proven to be a reliable partner for India, especially in defence and technological cooperation. At the same time, India has maintained strong relations with Arab nations as part of its broader regional strategy. Cooperation between India and Israel now includes intelligence sharing, missile systems, surveillance tools, and counterterrorism efforts.

A major milestone was the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding on joint development and co-production, which reflects growing strategic alignment. This partnership also supports India's push for self-reliance under the 'Make in India' initiative by reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.

India's balanced Middle East policy is strengthening ties with Israel while maintaining strong relations with key Arab nations and expanding defence and technology cooperation

Israel's strengths in defence innovation, cybersecurity, and advanced military systems have made it a key partner for India. Intelligence cooperation and border security technologies have further strengthened ties.

In recent years, India has also expanded engagement with countries like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in trade, energy, and investment. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted Israel's consistent support for India during security challenges.

UAE Signals Support For Force To Reopen Hormuz Strait

UNITED NATIONS

The United Arab Emirates has expressed willingness to join an international force aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz amid rising regional tensions. The UAE has informed the United States and Western allies that it is ready to participate in a multinational maritime taskforce. The proposed "Hormuz Security Force" aims to protect shipping routes and counter threats from Iran.

The strategic waterway, which carries nearly 20 per cent of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies, has been severely disrupted due to ongoing conflict. This has led to rising energy prices and concerns over global inflation.

The UAE is also working with Bahrain to push for a resolution at the United Nations Security Council to provide legal backing for such a force. However, opposition from countries like Russia and China could pose challenges. While some allies remain hesitant to commit military support, France has held discussions with several nations on a possible mission, likely after the ongoing conflict ends.

The Strait of Hormuz remains vital for global trade and energy supply, especially for the UAE, a major oil exporter and regional trade hub.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

3		1	8			9		
	9			5	1		7	3
4		6	3			8		
	3			6	8		9	2
6		5	9			4		
	8			3	4		6	7
9		3	7			2		
	4			9		7	8	6
	1	7	6		2	3		

5	2	3	6	7	1	4	9	8
4	7	9	8	3	5	6	2	1
6	1	8	2	9	4	5	3	7
8	4	7	1	5	3	9	6	2
3	6	1	7	2	9	8	5	4
2	9	5	4	8	6	1	7	3
1	8	2	5	6	7	3	4	9
7	3	6	9	4	8	2	1	5
9	5	4	3	1	2	7	8	6

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

IRGC Warns West Asia Amid Rising Regional Tensions

TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has issued a warning to people across West Asia, advising them to stay away from areas hosting US forces amid escalating tensions.

The IRGC accused American and Israeli forces of using civilians as shields and said it would continue targeting them. It urged residents near US military bases to leave immediately to avoid harm.

The warning comes as the IRGC announced a new phase of attacks under Operation True Promise 4, targeting key US and Israeli installations with missiles and drones. Claimed targets included oil facilities, military sites, and air bases across the region.

Jaishankar Highlights IMEC Role Amid West Asia Conflict

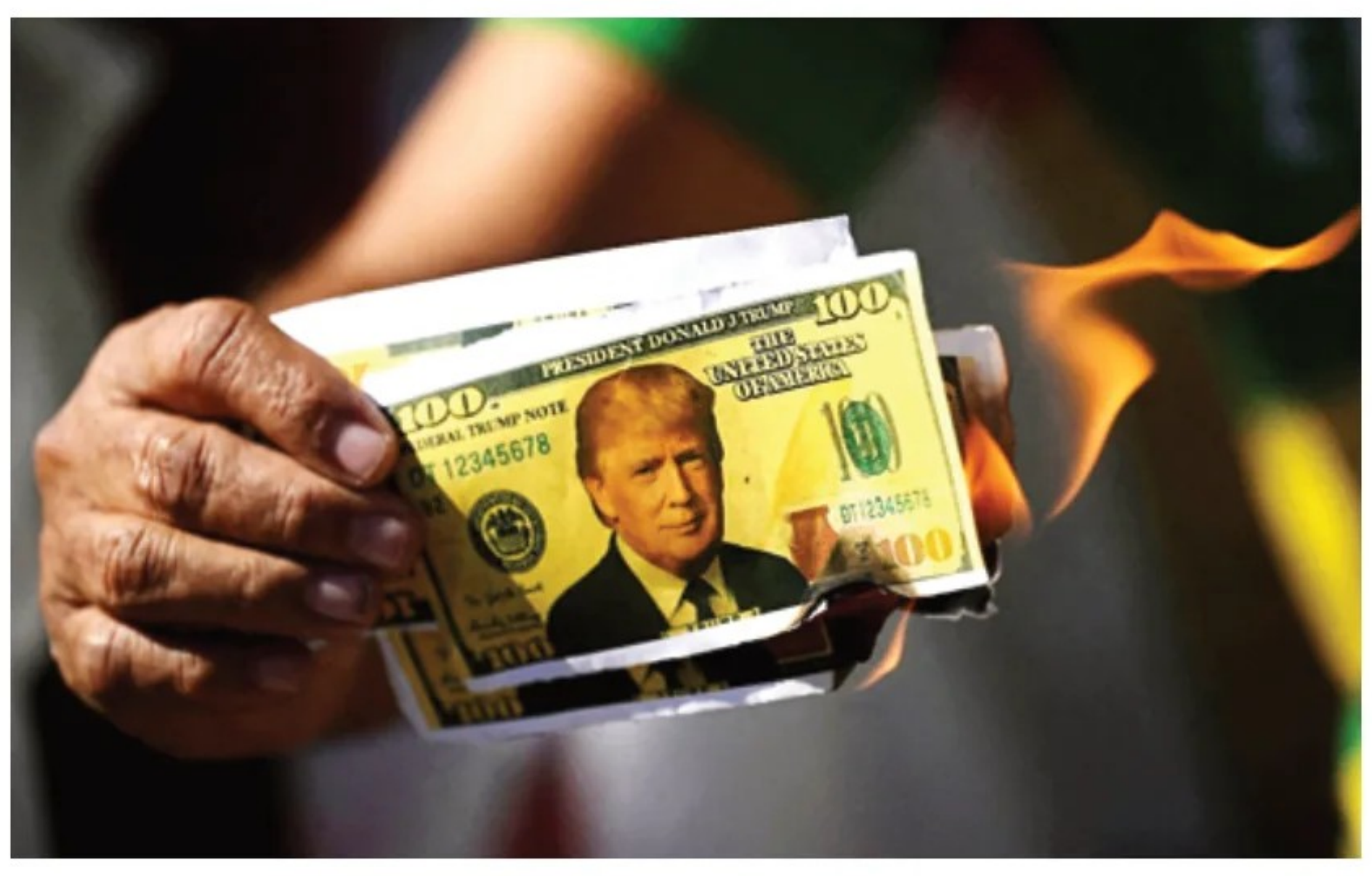
PARIS

S. Jaishankar stressed the importance of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in improving global connectivity during ongoing tensions in West Asia. Speaking at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in France, he said current conflicts highlight the need for stronger and more reliable trade routes and supply chains. He noted that disruptions in the region make it essential to build secure and resilient economic links.

Jaishankar pointed out that India's growing trade agreements, including those with the European Union, European Free Trade Association, and the United Kingdom, have increased the value and usefulness of IMEC. He said these partnerships are helping strengthen economic cooperation and connectivity across regions. He also appreciated the rising interest among global partners in supporting the IMEC initiative. According to him, this reflects a shared understanding of the need for stable and efficient trade corridors.

During the meeting, Jaishankar raised the need for reforms in the United Nations Security Council. He highlighted issues affecting the Global South, including energy shortages, fertiliser supply concerns, and food security challenges. On the sidelines, he held discussions with officials from the UK and Germany to review bilateral ties and global issues. He described the talks as productive and focused on strengthening cooperation.

Trump Signature To Feature On US Currency First Time



WASHINGTON

In a historic move, the United States Department of the Treasury has announced that US paper currency will soon carry the signature of President Donald Trump, marking a major break from a 165-year-old tradition.

According to reports, the redesigned notes are being introduced as part of celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of American independence. For the first time, the long-standing practice of including the US treasurer's signature will be discontinued, leaving only the president's signature alongside that of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

The first batch of $100 bills featuring Trump's signature is expected to be printed in June, though it may take a few weeks before they enter general circulation through banks. Officials clarified that apart from the signature change, the overall design and layout of the currency will remain unchanged.

Currently, US currency still carries the signatures of former Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and former Treasurer Lynn Malerba.

Treasury Secretary Bessent described the move as a symbolic step to honour both the country's achievements and Trump's leadership during a landmark anniversary year. Meanwhile, plans to introduce a $1 coin featuring Trump have reportedly been delayed due to legal restrictions that prohibit depicting living individuals on US coins. No official image of the new $100 bill has been released so far.

DRUG BUST

Canadian Drug Trafficker Pleads Guilty In US Court

LOS ANGELES

A Canadian national has admitted guilt in a large cross-border drug trafficking case worth millions of dollars, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Guramrit Sidhu, 62, a resident of Brampton, acknowledged that he led a criminal network responsible for moving significant quantities of drugs from the United States into Canada. The United States Department of Justice confirmed that he pleaded guilty to operating a continuing criminal enterprise.

Officials said that from September 2020 to February 2023, the group handled more than 850 kilograms of narcotics, including methamphetamine and cocaine. The total value of the seized drugs was estimated between 15 million and 17 million US dollars.

According to investigators, Sidhu coordinated the transport of drugs using long-haul trucks. He also set up coded identification systems, including specific phone numbers and currency serial numbers, to ensure secure handovers between couriers. Once the shipments reached Canada, they were retrieved and distributed in different regions.

Sidhu was taken into custody and extradited from Canada in October 2024. He is among several individuals charged in a 23-count federal indictment issued in January 2024. Authorities noted that he is the seventh accused to plead guilty, while others involved in the case have already received prison sentences.

The investigation was carried out with the support of multiple agencies from the United States and Canada, reflecting strong international coordination. Sidhu is expected to be sentenced on July 9 and could face a minimum of 20 years in prison, with the possibility of a life sentence.

Aakash Chopra predicts All-Indian IPL Cap sweep

Aakash Chopra predicts IPL 2026 Orange and Purple Caps will remain with Indian stars, highlighting top batsmen and bowlers

NEW DELHI

As the cricket world gears up for the IPL 2026 opener, former Indian opener turned commentator Aakash Chopra has placed his bets on an all-Indian lineup for the season's top honors. With the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, set to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the kickoff match, Chopra believes the prestigious Orange and Purple Caps will stay firmly in domestic hands this year.

In his latest analysis, Chopra identified young sensations Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill as the primary contenders for the Orange Cap. Both openers have previously tasted glory in this category and are expected to dominate the run charts again. Chopra also refused to rule out the legendary Virat Kohli, a two-time winner, noting his evergreen hunger for runs. He further suggested that if the Delhi Capitals enjoy a deep playoff run, KL Rahul could emerge as a dark horse for the title.

Chopra placed particular emphasis on Jaiswal's journey, noting that the youngster has amassed over 1,600 runs in the last three seasons. A haul of 600 to 650 runs this year could be his golden ticket back into India's white-ball squads.

Turning his attention to the bowlers, Chopra named Mumbai Indians' spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as the favorite for the Purple Cap, provided he remains injury-free. He also highlighted Kolkata Knight Riders' mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy as a major threat. As the 2026 season begins, fans are strapped in to see if these Indian superstars can live up to Chopra's high expectations on the grandest T20 stage.

KRUNAL PANDYA reclaims his identity as All-Rounder

BENGALURU

Indian cricketer Krunal Pandya has a clear message for fans and selectors: do not forget his batting. Speaking on a recent podcast, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) star expressed a deep desire to be recognized for his skills with the willow as much as his crafty left-arm spin. Despite being a key figure in RCB's historic 2025 IPL title win, Krunal feels his contributions with the bat often fly under the radar.

Reflecting on his journey since his last international match in 2021, Krunal highlighted his clutch performances. He was the "Player of the Match" in last year's final, but he is equally proud of his batting heroics, such as a match-winning 73* against Delhi Capitals. "Every season, I've been tagged differently," Krunal remarked. "Batting is close to my heart, but people tend to forget it." His stats back his claim, boasting over 1,700 IPL runs and a recent blistering century in the domestic Vijay Hazare Trophy.

At 35, Krunal remains fiercely determined to earn a recall to the national side. He believes his maturity and mental toughness are at an all-time high, making him a more complete player than ever before. While the competition for the Indian T20I squad is intense, his goal remains unchanged: to wear the blue jersey once more.

As IPL 2026 kicks off, Krunal is focused on delivering a true all-round masterclass. By balancing tight bowling spells with explosive finishes at the crease, he hopes to prove that he is still one of India's most versatile match-winners.

Chopra backs fit Virat Kohli to outshine veterans

NEW DELHI

As the cricket world prepares for tonight's IPL 2026 opener, former India opener Aakash Chopra has placed his bets on Virat Kohli to be the standout performer among the league's "Big Three." Analyzing the prospects of Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and MS Dhoni, Chopra highlighted that fitness and batting position give the Bengaluru star a distinct edge over his legendary peers this season.

Chopra pointed out that at 37, Kohli's discipline remains his greatest weapon. "The focus will be on Virat because the guy is so fit," Chopra remarked, noting that Kohli's role as an opener allows him to dictate the game's pace. With 8,661 career runs and eight centuries already to his name, the tournament's all-time leading scorer enters the season in prime physical condition to extend his record.

In contrast, Chopra admitted that the road is much tougher for MS Dhoni. At his age, stepping onto the field after a ten-month break to keep wickets for 20 overs and bat only a dozen balls is "the toughest thing to do." Meanwhile, he expects Rohit Sharma to maintain a fearless, aggressive approach for Mumbai, focusing on maximizing the powerplay by "seeing the ball and hitting the ball."

Ultimately, Chopra's analysis suggests that while all three veterans remain icons of the game, Kohli's relentless fitness and top-order slot make him the most likely to dominate the charts. As Bengaluru faces Hyderabad tomorrow, fans will see if the "King" can spark another historic run.

NITA AMBANI STUNNED BY ROHIT'S FITNESS MAKEOVER

MUMBAI

In a moment that has sent social media into a frenzy, Mumbai Indians owner Nita Ambani expressed utter disbelief at Rohit Sharma's physical transformation. Meeting the squad ahead of their Sunday IPL opener against Kolkata Knight Riders, Ambani was seen marveling at the 38-year-old's lean new look. "My god, Rohit, I did not recognize you! You look like a young boy," she reportedly told the star batter during her visit.

This dramatic change is the result of months of grueling dedication. Since retiring from Test cricket last May, Rohit has completely overhauled his lifestyle. His mission is clear: he is chasing one final dream—the 2027 ICC World Cup in Africa.

To get there, the veteran has traded his previous physique for a high-performance frame, proving he isn't ready to slow down just yet. Statistically, Rohit's "second innings" is already looking bright. Last year, he averaged a stellar 50.00 in ODIs and was named Player of the Series against Australia. However, the IPL has been a different story. Rohit hasn't crossed the 400-run mark in a season since 2016, averaging just 26.00 over the last nine years. This fitness surge is his answer to those declining numbers.

By shedding the weight and regaining his agility, Rohit aims to silence critics who labeled him a fading force in the T20 format. As Mumbai Indians prepare for battle, the "Hitman" looks sharper than ever, determined to dominate the crease and keep his World Cup ambitions alive until the very last ball.

IPL 2026 Season kicks off in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI

The wait is finally over for cricket fans as the 19th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) officially begins from today, March 28. In a blockbuster opening clash, the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, will host the Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. The high-octane tournament is scheduled to run until May 31, spanning 12 major cities across India, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

This year's edition features the familiar ten-team format, with heavyweights like Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians eyeing the trophy. Each team will play 14 matches during the group stage, fighting for a top-four spot to enter the playoffs. Fans can expect plenty of action-packed weekends, as the schedule includes 12 double-header days. Evening matches are set to start at 7:30 PM IST, while afternoon games will begin at 3:30 PM IST.

Watching the games has never been easier or more interactive. For television viewers, Star Sports remains the exclusive home for live broadcasts. Digital fans can stream every delivery on the JioHotstar app and website. In a push for inclusivity, the coverage will be available in eight languages, including Bhojpuri and Haryanvi.

Mobile users can also enjoy a "vertical feed" designed specifically for phones, alongside innovative features like 360-degree viewing and multi-camera angles. From the high altitudes of Dharamsala to the coastal heat of Chennai, the stage is perfectly set for another summer of unforgettable cricketing drama.

Piastri leads the pack at Suzuka Practice

SUZUKA

McLaren's Oscar Piastri signaled a massive comeback by clocking the fastest time during the second practice session for the Japanese Grand Prix. After a frustrating start to the season where he failed to finish the first two races, the 24-year-old Australian mastered the iconic 5.8 km Suzuka circuit with a blistering lap of 1:30.133. His performance gave McLaren a much-needed boost following recent reliability scares.

The session was a tight contest, with Mercedes continuing their dominant form. Kimi Antonelli, fresh off his maiden Formula One victory in China, finished just 0.092 seconds behind Piastri. His teammate and current championship leader, George Russell, took the third spot. The Mercedes duo has been the team to beat this year, having secured one-two finishes in every qualifying session and main race so far. They are currently separated by only four points at the top of the standings.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton remained consistent, finishing fifth and sixth in both practice sessions. Meanwhile, Red Bull's Max Verstappen struggled to find his usual pace, ending the second session in 10th place. Adding to the drama, Fernando Alonso finished 19th after arriving late to Japan following the birth of his first child.

Despite Piastri's speed, concerns remain for McLaren as Lando Norris spent significant time sidelined with garage repairs. With Audi's Nico Hulkenberg showing surprising pace in seventh, the grid is tightening up. All eyes now turn to qualifying to see if McLaren can finally break the Mercedes stranglehold.

Oscar Piastri led Suzuka practice, boosting McLaren after poor starts. Mercedes duo Kimi Antonelli and George Russell stayed strong. Ferrari consistent, Verstappen struggled, Alonso lagged. Qualifying will test if McLaren can challenge Mercedes dominance overall.

European Giants edge closer to World Cup

MEXICO CITY

Europe's World Cup playoffs saw Italy, Sweden, and Denmark secure crucial wins, bringing them close to qualification for FIFA 2026, with tense final clashes ahead.

The high-stakes race for the final spots in the 2026 FIFA World Cup reached a boiling point last night as Europe's heavyweights battled through a dramatic playoff round. Italy, Sweden, and Denmark all secured vital victories, moving within one win of qualifying for the expanded 48-team tournament set to kick off this June across North America. In Path A, Italy silenced Northern Ireland with a professional 2-0 win, thanks to second-half strikes from Sandro Tonali and Moise Kean. The European giants now face a tense final showdown against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Meanwhile, Path B belonged to Sweden's star striker Viktor Gyökeres, who netted a stunning hat-trick to dismantle Ukraine 3-1. Sweden will now meet Robert Lewandowski's Poland in a massive winner-takes-all clash.

The drama continued in Path C, where Turkiye edged past Romania 1-0, while Kosovo pulled off a miraculous 4-3 comeback against Slovakia. In Path D, Denmark looked every bit the favorite, crushing North Macedonia 4-0 with a brace from Gustav Isaksen. The Danes will now prepare for a physical battle against Czechia. Outside of Europe, Bolivia kept their dreams alive by defeating Suriname 2-1, setting up a final intercontinental hurdle against Iraq on April 1.

With the opening match between Mexico and South Africa fast approaching on June 11, the pressure is mounting. For these nations, the margin for error has vanished; only 90 minutes of football now stand between them and a plane ticket to the world's biggest sporting stage.

IOC mandates DNA tests for female events

NEW DELHI

In a major policy shift, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced the reintroduction of genetic testing to determine eligibility for female sports. The new mandate requires athletes in female categories to undergo screening for the SRY gene. This DNA test identifies the specific gene responsible for male physical development, marking a significant change in how elite competition is regulated globally.

IOC President Kirsty Coventry explained that the SRY test offers a "precise and permanent" way to confirm biological sex. Under the new rules, athletes who test negative for the gene qualify for female events. Those who test positive—including transgender women and certain athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD)—will be restricted to male, mixed, or open categories. An exception remains for rare conditions like Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS), where no athletic advantage is gained from testosterone.

The decision follows a two-year scientific and ethical review involving over 1,100 athletes worldwide. Experts concluded that male biological development provides significant performance edges in strength, power, and endurance. Coventry emphasized that these measures are essential for ensuring fair competition and athlete safety, particularly in high-impact contact sports, while promising to maintain strict medical confidentiality.

While this policy applies only to elite IOC events like the Olympic Games, it sets a powerful precedent. National committees are now tasked with educating athletes and providing mental health support during this transition. The move reflects the IOC's ongoing struggle to balance inclusivity with the protection of the female sporting category.

QUICK READ

Jewar residents excited as Airport opens soon

Greater Noida

Residents of Jewar are thrilled as the Noida International Airport is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Locals hope the airport will bring new jobs and business opportunities. Many praised farmers for donating their land, making the project possible. Heavy security is in place, and preparations for a public meeting are underway. The airport features modern facilities, including solar energy usage and face-recognition security. Officials say the cargo terminal will boost manufacturing, and the terminal will help passengers complete formalities faster. The runway inauguration is scheduled for March 28.

DigiHaat empowers Artisans and Farmers digitally

New Delhi

The government's new platform, DigiHaat, under ONDC, connects India's artisans, farmers, and small producers directly to online markets. Launched by DPIIT, it focuses on rural and underserved sellers, including women entrepreneurs and SHG-linked producers. Craftspeople from Jaipur, Bastar, Kashmir, and Sikkim are already onboarded. DigiHaat also integrates mobility services like Namma Yatri and Bharat Taxi. A Beta AI toolkit will help small sellers with regional language catalogues, automated listings, and smarter logistics. The government aims to bring 10 crore producers onto the platform, boosting incomes and formal financial access, while testing new e-commerce features for wider adoption.

Dr Reddy's renames drug amid court concerns

New Delhi

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories will rename its semaglutide drug from "Olymviq" to "Olymra" following concerns raised by the Delhi High Court. The court noted the original name could confuse patients, doctors, and pharmacists due to its similarity with Novo Nordisk's "Ozempic." Dr. Reddy's, the first Indian company approved for generic semaglutide, had temporarily halted sales. The move comes as generic competition rises after the patent expiry. CEO Erez Israeli said the firm aims to expand access to diabetes therapies in India. Shares dipped 2% to Rs 1,274.75 on BSE during intraday trading.

Major Financial rules change from April 1

New Delhi

India will see several financial and regulatory changes from April 1, 2026, affecting taxes, fuel, banking, and rail travel. The new Income Tax Act 2025 replaces the 1961 version, simplifying terms and offering zero tax for individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh under Section 87A. Forms 16/16A are replaced by Forms 130/131. Aadhaar alone won't be enough for PAN applications. Railways now allow refunds up to eight hours before departure. Fuel costs, including LPG, PNG, and CNG, may change. Banks like HDFC, Bandhan, and PNB have updated withdrawal limits and transaction rules.

INDIA SPENDS BIG TO PROTECT SKIES AND SEAS

India strengthens national security with Rs 858 crore defense deals, enhancing air and maritime surveillance under local expertise

NEW DELHI

India took a massive step forward in national security by signing two major defense deals worth Rs 858 crore. These agreements, finalized at Kartavya Bhawan-2, aim to guard the nation's borders from the air and keep a close eye on the vast Indian Ocean.

The first part of the plan involves a Rs 445 crore deal with Russia for the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System. These advanced missiles act like a high-tech shield for the Indian Army. They are designed to track and shoot down threats like enemy planes, drones, and cruise missiles. This move doesn't just add firepower; it also deepens the long-standing friendship between India and Russia.

The second deal, worth Rs 413 crore, focuses on the "Guardians of the Ocean." The Indian Navy uses Boeing P8I aircraft to spot submarines and monitor sea routes. Under the "Make in India" initiative, Boeing's Indian subsidiary will now handle the deep maintenance and inspections for these planes right here at home. This ensures that the fleet stays ready for action without needing to send equipment abroad.

Defense Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other top officials attended the signing, marking a proud moment for the country's self-reliance goals. By investing in these technologies, India is ensuring its soldiers and sailors have the best tools to keep the public safe. These contracts prove that whether it is sky-high threats or deep-sea mysteries, the nation is prepared to defend its territory with local expertise and global strength.

Firms struggle to fund AI Cloud needs

NEW DELHI

A massive gap has appeared between corporate dreams of Artificial Intelligence and the reality of their computer power. A new global report reveals that while almost every company sees AI as the future, 88 percent of firms admit their current cloud spending is simply not enough to support it.

The study, which surveyed 2,300 experts across 33 countries, paints a startling picture of the digital age. Even though businesses have been using cloud technology for nearly twenty years, only 14 percent have reached a "mature" level. This lack of preparation is putting modern projects and AI goals at serious risk.

"AI is moving much faster than companies can keep up with," explained Charlie Li, a top executive meeting which was held recently.

He warned that if businesses don't fix their digital foundations, their expensive AI investments might never truly pay off.

The problem isn't just about money; it is also about strategy. While new "AI Chiefs" are pushing for more investment, traditional tech officers are struggling with rising costs and complex systems. Currently, fewer than half of the organizations surveyed are actually happy with how their cloud systems are performing.

A global report warns 88% of companies lack cloud capacity for AI, highlighting a gap between ambitions and digital infrastructure readiness worldwide

To bridge this gap, successful "cloud leaders" are now using AI to manage their own migrations and moving toward fully managed platforms. The report concludes that if companies want to win the AI race, they must stop treating the cloud as just a storage space and start seeing it as the engine for their future growth.

India finalizes seven PM MITRA textile hubs, boosting production, jobs, and modernizing traditional weaving under Make in India

Seven giant textile parks confirmed for India

NEW DELHI

The Indian government has officially locked in the locations for seven massive textile hubs under the PM MITRA scheme. Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh confirmed in Parliament that these specialized parks will be built across seven different states to boost clothing production and create jobs.

The chosen sites include Virudhnagar in Tamil Nadu, Warangal in Telangana, Navasari in Gujarat, and Kalaburagi in Karnataka. Rounding out the list are Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, and Amravati in Maharashtra. While these seven spots are now final, the Minister clarified that there are currently no plans to add any more sites under this specific program.

However, the future still looks bright for the industry. The government recently announced a new plan in the 2026-27 Budget to set up even more mega textile parks using a "challenge mode," where states compete to host them. This keeps the momentum going for the "Make in India" vision in the garment sector.

Beyond giant factories, the government is also wrapping its arms around local artisans. New schemes like TEEM are being launched to help traditional weavers upgrade their old machinery and get better testing centers for their fabrics. From providing solar lighting to helping weavers sell their hand-made goods in international markets, the goal is clear: modernize the industry while protecting the hard-working people who have kept India's textile traditions alive for generations.

India's Digital Success becomes model for world

NEW DELHI

India's rapid digital growth has taken center stage at the United Nations in Geneva. Experts now view the country's "Digital Public Infrastructure" as a roadmap for other developing nations to follow. At a recent session, global leaders discussed how India uses technology to ensure every citizen has the right to grow and succeed.

The secret to this success is the "JAM Trinity"—a powerful combination of bank accounts, digital ID cards (Aadhaar), and mobile phones. This system now reaches 97 percent of the population. In 2025 alone, the UPI payment system handled a staggering 228 billion transactions. This allowed everyone from rickshaw drivers to street vendors to join the modern economy easily. Importantly, over half of these bank accounts are held by women, helping bridge the gender gap.

The impact isn't just financial; it's saving lives. The Ayushman Bharat scheme provides health cover to 55 crore people, preventing families from falling into poverty due to medical bills. Meanwhile, online doctor consultations and digital portals for laborers ensure that even the most vulnerable people can access help with a simple click.

What makes India's model special is that it is built as a "public good" rather than a private business. Experts noted that this approach, rooted in values like service and compassion, allows technology to protect traditional culture while embracing the future. By sharing this knowledge, India is helping create millions of new "green" and digital jobs, proving that technology can truly be a force for good.

High prices turn gold into pure investment

NEW DELHI

India's age-old love affair with gold is changing shape. As prices skyrocket, a new report from ICRA and Assocham reveals that Indians are buying less jewelry and instead turning to gold as a serious financial investment.

During the first half of this fiscal year, demand for gold jewelry dropped by a significant 26 percent. However, people haven't stopped buying the precious metal entirely; they are simply changing how they buy it. Demand for gold bars and coins jumped by 15 percent, while investments in gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) soared by 60 percent. This shift suggests that while a gold necklace might feel too expensive right now, a gold bar feels like a safe bet for the future.

The reason for the change is simple: the cost. Gold prices rose by 33 percent last year and have surged over 50 percent so far this year. This spike is driven by global tensions, a weaker rupee, and central banks around the world hoovering up over 1,000 tonnes of gold annually to stabilize their economies.

Even with these high prices, India remains the world's top gold consumer, making up 30 percent of global demand. To help shoppers, the government's mandatory hallmarking rules have made it easier to trust the purity of what they buy. Meanwhile, big organized jewelry brands are expanding into smaller towns, making it easier for everyone to trade or recycle their old gold. While the wedding season still keeps the market alive, the "gold brick" is quickly becoming the new favorite over the "gold bangle."

India secures future harvests with new fertilizer deals

NEW DELHI

The Indian government moved to protect the nation's food security by announcing a massive plan to ensure a steady supply of fertilizers for farmers. To avoid risks from global conflicts, the Department of Fertilizers has signed long-term deals with several resource-rich countries to keep essential farming nutrients flowing.

Union Minister JP Nadda informed the Lok Sabha that India is working hard to reduce its dependence on foreign nations. Currently, the country relies heavily on imports for raw materials—including 100 percent of its potash and 86 percent of its rock phosphate. To fix this, the government is encouraging local companies to build new factories. These new plants are expected to produce nearly 60 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers annually, shifting the focus toward "Make in India" for the agricultural sector.

In a modern twist, the government is also turning to "Green Ammonia" as part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. This cleaner, more sustainable option will help modernize the industry while protecting the environment.

Beyond just supply, the government wants farmers to use these chemicals more wisely. Experts from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are now training farmers to move away from using too much urea, which can hurt the soil.

Cancel your LPG from home with ease

NEW DELHI

Switching to piped natural gas (PNG) just became much simpler for Indian households. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced that consumers no longer need to visit a crowded dealership to surrender their old LPG cylinders. A new digital system allows the entire process to be finished right from your living room.

Neeraj Mittal, the Secretary of the Ministry, launched the "MyPNG-D Portal" to handle these requests online. To cancel a connection, a user only needs their registered mobile number or their unique LPG ID. This move removes the paperwork and travel time that previously made switching fuels a hassle for many families.

The government is calling this a win for both convenience and the community. When a PNG user surrenders their LPG connection, that cylinder can be redirected to a family in a rural area who still relies on wood or coal for cooking. In just the first twenty-four hours of the portal going live, nearly 1,800 "responsible citizens" have already used the tool to give up their old accounts.

By making the transition digital, the Ministry hopes to speed up the move toward cleaner cooking energy. Mr. Mittal thanked the early users on social media, urging others to follow suit. This initiative is a key part of the government's plan to ensure that every kitchen in India has access to safe, modern, and efficient fuel without the stress of unnecessary office visits.

Global energy crisis hits Bangladesh's fuel budget

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh is facing a severe economic challenge as the ongoing Middle East crisis threatens to drive its fuel import bill up by 40 percent. According to a new report by Zero Carbon Analytics, the country may have to spend an extra $4.8 billion this year just to keep the lights on and engines running.

This spike in costs is a painful reminder of the 2022 energy crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war. Back then, skyrocketing gas prices led to massive blackouts affecting 130 million people. Now, history seems to be repeating itself. Because Bangladesh relies on imports for 65 percent of its power needs, any trouble in the Middle East quickly turns into a crisis at home.

The situation is made worse by geography. Most of Bangladesh's fuel travels through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway now disrupted by conflict. Shipments of crude oil from Saudi Arabia and diesel are already being delayed or canceled. Even more worrying is the shortage of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). Qatar, which provides the vast majority of Bangladesh's gas, has suspended some shipments, leaving the country's energy future uncertain.

These rising costs are draining the nation's foreign currency reserves, making it harder to pay for other essential goods.

GOOGLE SEARCH LIVE

Google Search now talks in many languages

NEW DELHI

Searching the internet just became as easy as having a chat with a friend. Google has officially launched "Search Live" globally, bringing real-time AI conversations to over 200 countries. This update is a game-changer for India, as the feature now supports nine more local languages, including Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada.

Powered by the advanced Gemini 3.1 Flash Live model, the tool allows users to skip typing altogether. By tapping the "Live" icon in the Google app, you can ask questions out loud and receive natural audio responses. It feels less like a machine and more like a helpful assistant that understands your preferred mother tongue.

The technology goes beyond just voice; it can actually "see" what you see. By using your phone's camera, you can show Google a tricky DIY project—like a confusing bookshelf assembly—and get instant guidance. The app analyzes the visual context and provides spoken tips along with helpful web links to finish the job.

This launch coincides with a new national AI training program. In partnership with Google and YouTube, the Indian government is set to train 15,000 people in creative fields like animation and gaming. By combining high-tech tools with deep local roots, Google is making sure that the future of the internet isn't just about what you type, but how you speak and what you observe in the world around you.

Champions RCB's to Hunt "Back To Back" Titles

RCB begin title defense against SRH in IPL opener, blending tribute, rivalry, and explosive cricket in Bengaluru tonight.

BENGALURU

The wait is finally over. Today at 7:30 p.m. IST, the Indian Premier League returns to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium for a high-stakes "South Indian Derby." Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will host Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a match filled with both sporting intensity and deep emotion.

This marks the first time in history that RCB enters the tournament as reigning titleholders. However, the mood is bittersweet. The BCCI has canceled the traditional opening ceremony to honor 11 fans who tragically lost their lives during last year's victory celebrations. In a moving gesture, 11 seats will remain permanently empty, and players will wear the number 11 during practice.

On the field, the battle promises a "run-fest." While Virat Kohli looks in peak form—recently smashing 45 runs off just 19 balls in practice—RCB faces a major "bowling headache." Star pacers Nuwan Thushara and Yash Dayal are both out, leaving veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar to lead a depleted attack. They must find a way to stop Hyderabad's "power-hitting duo," Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, who previously smashed a team century in just 30 balls.

With Sunrisers led by stand-in captain Ishan Kishan, the visitors hope to spoil the champions' homecoming. Data experts give RCB a slight 54% edge due to home advantage, but the flat pitch means any score could be chased. As the floodlights flare and the Bengaluru roar reaches a fever pitch, this season opener transcends sport. It is a powerful tribute to the eleven fans whose spirits remain a permanent part of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. With eleven empty seats watching over the pitch and "Number 11" jerseys worn in honor, RCB carries the heartbeat of an entire city into their title defense.

Against the explosive power of Hyderabad, the champions must now turn grief into glory. The stage is set, the legacy is calling, and a new era of dominance begins. Let the games begin!

PLAYERS TO WATCH

- **Virat Kohli (RCB):** The icon enters with 471 runs in his last 10 outings.
- **Abhishek Sharma (SRH):** A dangerous opener with a strike rate near 200.
- **Phil Salt (RCB):** Expected to provide the explosive start Bengaluru needs.
- **Heinrich Klaasen (SRH):** The world's most feared finisher in the middle order.

Match Day Essentials

Category	Details to Know
The Clash	RCB vs Sunrisers Hyderabad
Venue	M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru
The Odds	RCB: **54%**
X-Factor	Virat Kohli (RCB) vs Abhishek Sharma (SRH)

Indian Archers Dominate Asia Cup with Gold

BANGKOK

India's archery stars delivered a masterclass in precision by walking away with eight medals at the Asia Cup Stage I.

The team turned the tournament into a personal playground, particularly in the compound category where they swept the podium and left competitors trailing far behind.

The highlight was a thrilling showdown between teammates. In the men's individual final, Uday Kamboj showed incredible nerves of steel.

After falling behind early, he fired a perfect third round to overtake Prathamesh Jawkar, winning the gold with a narrow 145-144 score.

Rajat Chauhan joined them on the podium with a bronze, completing a clean sweep for India.

The success continued as Tejal Salve claimed the women's individual gold. She dominated the final against Mariia Dimidiuk, finishing with a commanding 144-135 victory.

India dominated Asia Cup Stage I in archery, winning eight medals, including golds for Uday Kamboj, Prathamesh Jawkar, Tejal Salve, and mixed team triumph.

India's teamwork was just as sharp; Chikitha Taniparthi and Rajat Chauhan paired up to snatch gold in the mixed team event after a tense battle against Malaysia.

While the women's compound team fought hard, they narrowly missed the top spot, earning a respectable silver against Kazakhstan.

These victories added to the bronze medals already secured by the men's compound and women's recurve teams earlier in the week.

By the time the dust settled, India had collected two golds, two silvers, and four bronzes.

Zverev crushes Cerundolo to face in-form sinner

MIAMI

Alexander Zverev delivered a masterclass in power hitting, brushing aside Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 6-2 to reach the Miami Open semifinals. The 27-year-old German was in unstoppable form, securing his place in the last four of both Indian Wells and Miami in the same season for the first time in his career.

Cerundolo entered the match with high confidence after upsetting Daniil Medvedev earlier in the week. However, the Argentine had no answers for Zverev's relentless pace. The victory gives Zverev a 4-3 lead in their head-to-head series and marks his 25th appearance in an ATP Masters 1000 semifinal. Despite his dominance, Zverev remains cautious about his next opponent, stating that tomorrow will be his "toughest test" yet.

That test comes in the form of Jannik Sinner, who looks nearly invincible. Sinner earned his spot in the semifinals by racing past American Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 6-2. The Italian's performance was statistically staggering, dropping only nine points on his serve and finishing with a near-perfect performance rating. Sinner is currently on a ten-match winning streak and is eyeing a historic "Sunshine Double"—winning both Indian Wells and Miami in the same year.

Olympic hero Gurjant Singh retires from Hockey

NEW DELHI

Emotional scenes filled the room as double Olympic bronze medallist Gurjant Singh officially announced his retirement from international hockey. Speaking at the Hockey India Awards, the 31-year-old striker called time on a brilliant decade-long career. He leaves the turf as a national hero who played a massive role in the recent revival of Indian hockey on the global stage.

Born in Amritsar, Gurjant first shot to fame by scoring in the 2016 Junior World Cup final. Since his senior debut in 2017, he became a constant threat to defenders, earning 130 caps and scoring 33 goals. His crowning achievements include standing on the podium at both the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics. Beyond the Olympic rings, he helped India clinch gold at the 2022 Asian Games and the 2017 Asia Cup.

"I feel incredibly satisfied," Gurjant told the audience. He reflected on his journey from a young boy dreaming of the blue jersey to becoming an Arjuna Award winner. He thanked his teammates, describing them as a family that supported him through every win and loss. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey praised the forward, noting that his explosive pace and ability to score in high-pressure moments made him a player that opponents truly feared.

As Gurjant hangs up his stick, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and success. From the dusty fields of Punjab to the world's biggest stadiums, his story remains an inspiration for every aspiring athlete in India.

ELITE STARS TRAIN HARD FOR ASIAN GAMES

BELLARY

India's top kabaddi stars have gathered in Bellary to begin a high-energy training camp aimed at gold. The Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, alongside Mashal Sports, launched this special week-long program at the Inspire Institute of Sport. Running until April 2, the camp focuses on building the ultimate physical foundation for the upcoming 2026 Asian Games.

This isn't just a standard practice session; it is a scientific deep dive into player performance. Around 45 elite men and 45 top women athletes are participating, all fighting for a spot on the final national squad. Big names like Pawan Sehrawat, Naveen Kumar, and Arjun Deshwal are already on the mat, while women's star Ritu Negi is leading the charge for the female contingency.

Federation President Vibhor Vineet Jain emphasized that this camp is a vital step in modernizing the sport. By using advanced fitness methods and professional coaching, India aims to raise its game to a global standard. It is about turning skilled players into world-class athletes who can handle the intense pressure of international competition.

Anupam Goswami from Mashal Sports noted that this training will benefit the players far beyond the Asian Games. The strength and conditioning gains will also help them shine in the Pro Kabaddi League. As the players sweat through rigorous drills, the goal remains clear: to build a powerhouse Indian team that is faster, stronger, and more prepared than ever before to bring home the glory later this year.

Nicola Carey targets World Cup squad spot

ST. KITTS

Australian all-rounder Nicola Carey has her sights set on a major comeback as she eyes a spot in the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Currently touring the West Indies, Carey is making the most of her return to the national setup after a three-year hiatus.

With the global tournament in England just months away, the seam-bowling specialist is determined to prove she still belongs at the very top.

Carey was a fixture in Australia's dominant era, helping the team clinch the 2020 T20 World Cup and the 2022 ODI World Cup. However, she famously turned down a national contract to seek more consistent game time elsewhere.

Her gamble seems to have paid off; after strong domestic performances, she was recalled for the recent series against India and retained for the Caribbean tour.

The absence of star player Annabel Sutherland, who is currently resting, has opened a "massive" door for Carey.

During the recent 3-0 T20I series sweep against the West Indies, Carey even took on the challenge of opening the bowling.

Sabalenka faces Gauff in thrilling Miami Final

MIAMI

Tennis fans are in for a treat as World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka set up a blockbuster final against home favorite Coco Gauff at the Miami Open. Sabalenka moved one step closer to the prestigious "Sunshine Double" after a commanding 6-4, 6-3 semifinal victory over Elena Rybakina.

The win marks Sabalenka's second consecutive final in Miami, a feat not seen by a top-ranked woman since Serena Williams a decade ago.

The semifinal match was a display of pure power. Sabalenka, nicknamed "Tiger," broke Rybakina's serve in the first set with a ferocious overhead shot.

She then stormed through the second set with a 4-0 start, eventually sealing the win with a massive cross-court forehand. This victory makes her only the fourth player this century to reach the final in her first four events of the season, joining legends like Martina Hingis and Victoria Azarenka.

On the other side of the net, American star Coco Gauff earned her spot in her first-ever Miami Open final by crushing Karolina Muchova 6-1, 6-1. After an early hiccup, Gauff went on a tear, winning 12 of the final 13 games.

The rivalry between Sabalenka and Gauff is perfectly balanced, with both players holding six wins each in their head-to-head history.

With Sabalenka chasing back-to-back titles and Gauff playing in front of a roaring home crowd, the summit clash promises to be an unforgettable battle for the 2026 trophy.

Samson viewed as Dhoni's natural successor at CSK

NEW DELHI

Cricket legend Irfan Pathan believes a historic changing of the guard is finally approaching at Chennai Super Kings.

It's come to notice that the former pacer identified Sanju Samson as the perfect player to inherit the "baton" from MS Dhoni. With Dhoni's career likely entering its final chapter, Pathan argues that Samson's arrival at CSK marks a new era for the five-time champions.

Samson joins Chennai this season following a spectacular run as the Player of the Tournament in India's 2026 T20 World Cup victory.

Pathan noted that Samson isn't just a world-class wicketkeeper-batter; he is a figure fans can genuinely connect with.

"You can build your team around him," Pathan stated, suggesting that Dhoni is finally ready to pass on his legacy to someone with the caliber to lead the franchise into the future.

The discussion also touched on Dhoni's evolving role.

In recent years, a knee injury and age have seen the "Captain Cool" slide down the batting order to play as a two-over finisher.

However, Pathan urged the veteran to take more responsibility this season, suggesting he should bat for at least four or five overs to truly benefit the team.

He noted that the days of Dhoni easily finishing every game are fading, making Samson's presence even more vital.

As the 2026 IPL kicks off, all eyes are on the CSK dugout. Whether this is truly Dhoni's last dance or not, the stage is set for Samson to prove he is the rightful heir to the throne in Chennai.

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